



Daily Report

East Asia

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Southeast Asian Nations View NAFTA

BK1808101992

[Editorial Report] Initial Southeast Asian and Indian reaction to the formation of the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) was mixed, ranging from caution to concern.

Singapore

Singapore's official reaction, in a statement from the Trade and Industry Ministry in a one-minute broadcast over government radio, Singapore Broadcasting Network in English at 1400 GMT on 14 August, endorses "regional trade liberalization under NAFTA provided the agreement is consistent with GATT and does not create a protectionist trading bloc." The statement said "NAFTA reflects a global trend toward greater regional economic integration," and added that Singapore would not be severely affected if it continues to bolster its competitiveness.

In a 1200-word article in the Republic's leading English-language daily, Singapore's THE STRAITS TIMES on 13 August, says: "Like the rest of the world outside North America, Singapore businessmen and analysts are afraid that they will be shut out by NAFTA."

However, the article also points out this fear is not endemic. Economists and business executives said "non-economic considerations have to be factored in, like political stability, cultural values, work ethic, language, efficiency of the government etc," when investment decisions are made. The business community believes Singapore's overall attraction would help buttress it against any exodus of foreign companies to Mexico.

Meanwhile, Singapore's THE STRAITS TIMES in English on 17 August, in its 620-word editorial headlined "The Threat From NAFTA," said "Asia is right to be worried," and called for self-reliance and a move "towards genuine regional integration through schemes such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area Agreement" to face the "uncertain world."

Malaysia

In a one and a half minute report over government radio, Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English at 1330 GMT on 14 August, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed expressed both "apprehension" over "the restriction of goods from outside North America," and resolve "to penetrate that market and step up trade—particularly with the United States and Mexico." He added that the government "has not relented" in forming the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, and that the support of "other countries will suffice," if Japan's and South Korea's are not forthcoming.

Commenting on NAFTA the following day, the government-controlled press agency Kuala Lumpur's BERNAMA in English at 0348 GMT on 15 August, in a 130-word report, cited Dr. Mahathir saying that many Japanese businessmen

are eager for EAEC, "although the Japanese Government did not seem to support it." Tokyo, Dr. Mahathir said, was under "tremendous pressure" from Washington not to support the EAEC. He remarked that Tokyo may be forced to look toward East Asia, as even "their minivan is also not allowed into the U.S."

The Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English on 15 August, criticized U.S. President George Bush for setting up NAFTA. In a 600-word editorial headlined "A Case of Double Standards," it said: "But NAFTA will not divide the world. It is not trade protectionism. It is not meant to keep others out. It is not the harbinger of a world divided into economic spheres. Says the United States. The EAEC as a consultative forum, on the other hand, threatens to split the globe."

Taken to task for not standing up to the U.S., the editorial says Japan "should be able to take pride in itself for its economic success, if nothing else, and demonstrate its maturity in being able to think and decide for herself."

The paper in conclusion calls upon Southeast Asia to "look inward within itself to lead its own life" and to stop "kowtowing to the West."

Indonesia

The Indonesian Government reaction mirrored Malaysia's concern that NAFTA would increase protectionism and block goods from nonmember countries entering North America.

In a 250-word item, the government press agency Jakarta ANTARA in English at 1044 GMT on 13 August, reported Junior Minister of Trade J. Sudrajat Jiwandono as saying that "the enforcement of NAFTA colors the issue of a free trade area which frees its members from trade barriers."

While hoping "NAFTA would realize free trade in the region and eventually generate free trade in other parts of the world," the minister warned that NAFTA would only be successful if its member countries increase cooperation.

Hong Kong AFP in English at 0616 GMT on August 15, reported the junior minister of trade saying that Indonesia will have to make its industries more efficient, and if this succeeded, Indonesia would have "no cause to worry," unless there is "discrimination." In the 230-word item, he added: "The problem is that even without discrimination, the import needs of NAFTA which so far had been met by products from outsider countries might at least be shifted to imports from fellow NAFTA members."

In the latest reaction from the Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian at 0000 GMT on 18 August, however, the vice-chairman of the Indonesian parliament's Budgetary Affairs Commission, said NAFTA is "not a threat." In the one-minute report, Mr.

Albertson Marlis Sihanoho said NAFTA provided opportunities for Indonesia's commodity exports to all three countries.

Thailand

Concern was also voiced among Thai ministry officials and businessmen, through the leading English-language newspaper BANGKOK POST on 14 August. The 900-word item reported Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's cool reaction to the formation of NAFTA as being part of a world trend. Anan remarked that Thailand was also pursuing the goal of increasing regional trade through the creation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA. The success of the NAFTA negotiations, he was quoted as saying, will probably encourage ASEAN members to recognize the need to cooperate more.

Ministry officials cited by the paper identified garments, footwear, and canned tuna exports as being most likely to be affected. The officials were also watching for the GATT ruling on NAFTA, with an official warning that the "balance" in the Uruguay Round of the GATT-sponsored talks would be upset if the United States, Canada, and Mexico decided to negotiate as one voice.

But on a more positive note, the paper cited Deputy Commerce Minister Pridiyathon Thewakun giving examples of Thai companies that have already begun to invest in Mexico, to gain from the huge market.

Meanwhile, the mass-circulation vernacular newspaper, Bangkok's THAI RAT in Thai on 15 August, cited Deputy Industry Minister Wira Susangkonkan's call for the speedy formation of AFTA to counter the "severe" effects of NAFTA on Thailand. The minister, in the 150-word item, was reported to have added that Thailand should also solve its internal problems of weak infrastructure, expensive land prices and low-skilled labor to attract overseas investments.

India

In a commentary over the Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English at 1010 GMT on 17 August, which reflects the views of the Indian Government, its Southeast Asia correspondent said "India, whose textile and light engineering exports to the United States could be eclipsed by Mexico, is expected to take a leading part in shaping G-77 response to NAFTA at the NAM (Nonaligned Movement) summit. It should also trigger a more intense interaction with ASEAN of which it has become a sectoral dialogue partner."

ROK, DPRK Attend UN Disarmament Conference

SK1808053392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0918 GMT
17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea, the United States, Japan, China, and Russia began discussion on Asia-Pacific disarmament at a conference that opened its three-day run in Shanghai Monday.

The Asia-Pacific Disarmament Conference, co-sponsored by the U.N. Conference on Disarmament and Beijing University, will cover nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula and institutionalizing a collective regional security forum, possibly using the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), officials said.

Other issues are to include prior notification of military exercises in the region and possible opening of military communication lines.

South Korea sent Kong No-myong, head of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) and Seoul-side chairman of the inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), as chief delegate.

Other participants include Ronald Lehman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Yasushi Akashi, chief U.N. representative to the Cambodian peacekeeping mission, Geliy Datemiy, head of staff at the Russian Defense Ministry, and Chen Peiyao from the Shanghai Institute for International Studies.

Japan

Hearings on Emperor's PRC Visit Conclude

OW1808143492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT
18 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—All 14 prominent citizens asked to comment on a proposed visit to China by Emperor Akihito agreed the trip should not be used for political purposes, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Tuesday.

Kato told a news conference the comments, solicited during two days of closed-door hearings, indicated that despite a divergence of views, there was agreement the visit would be of "tremendous significance for friendship" between Japan and China.

There was also agreement that relations with other countries, particularly South Korea, the United States, and Taiwan, should be taken into account if the visit proceeds, Kato said.

The people invited to the hearings, all of whom are very familiar with China, included critics, academics, journalists, and business leaders.

Kato said they were divided between supporters and opponents of the imperial visit.

He said many at the hearings supported the proposed autumn visit, as a way to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

But he said others urged caution because of China's human rights record, arms exports, domestic political situation, and claim to the Senkaku Islands, which Japan argues form part of Okinawa.

Kato said some favored the emperor's speeches in China not turning the visit into "a journey of tribute and apology," but making it "purely and simply an improvement in friendship."

But he reported some at the hearings said it is natural the emperor would wish to frankly express his feelings on the subject of past relations with China.

Those of this opinion felt "for the sake of future relations, it is important to show a clear awareness of what unfortunate things happened in the past."

Kato said the opinions expressed will be passed on to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for incorporation in the planning process for the emperor's visit.

The government is expected to make a formal decision on the visit August 25.

Among extreme opponents of the visit were those who said the emperor "should not leave his throne to go

overseas," and that a visit to a country such as Thailand, which the emperor made last year "could be condoned, but not a visit to China."

After Tuesday's hearings, commentator Hideaki Kase told reporters he strongly opposed the visit.

But he said if during the visit the emperor apologizes for Japan's 1937-1945 war with China, "I would like to see the emperor make an expression of dissatisfaction with China's own human rights record."

Toshiro Mayuzumi, a leading composer of contemporary classical music, also opposed the visit, saying Miyazawa should have held the hearings before even reaching an informal decision.

"It's just a formality before the cabinet decision is made," Mayuzumi said.

University of Tokyo Prof. Emeritus Shozaburo Kimura, a noted historian on Western Europe, said the 20th anniversary is the "best timing" for the visit.

Ikuo Hirayama, head of the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and a popular Japanese-style painter, agreed with the visit "in principle."

Kato did not divulge the names of the supporters and opponents but five of the 14 later indicated they agreed with the visit, six said they opposed it or called for caution, and three refused public comment.

Tokyo Seeks Khmer Rouge Return to Peace Process

OW1808135792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT
18 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Japan will send a senior Foreign Ministry official to Bangkok on Thursday to try to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the Cambodian peace process, ministry sources said Tuesday.

Tadashi Ikeda, director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, is expected to hold talks with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Thai Government officials in a bid to break a deadlock between the Cambodian guerrilla faction and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Ikeda had been slated to make the trip last week but it was postponed after Khmer Rouge leaders suddenly opened a meeting.

Ikeda will likely propose setting up an administrative advisory committee under the Supreme National Council (SNC) to strengthen the council's function, ministry sources said.

He may also propose establishing a research committee to verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge, militarily the strongest of Cambodia's three guerrilla factions, has refused to disarm and

demobilize its army, the second phase of the U.N.-brokered Paris peace accord.

As conditions for rejoining the peace process, the Khmer Rouge faction demands increased authority for the SNC by dissolving the Phnom Penh government and verification that Vietnamese forces have left the country.

Japan hopes the proposals will induce the Khmer Rouge to move toward disarmament at an SNC meeting scheduled to open Monday, the sources said.

The Japanese Government plans to send engineer units of the Self-Defense Forces to Cambodia, possibly as early as October, to join the U.N. peacekeeping operations there under a law enacted in June, which took effect August 10.

Tokyo tried in mid-July to break the UNTAC-Khmer Rouge deadlock by sending Sakutaro Tanino, Ikeda's predecessor, to Cambodia to confer with Khieu Samphan and the faction's other representative on the SNC, Son Sen.

In late July, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told So Khun, the Phnom Penh government's communications, transport and posts minister, that Japan, China, and Thailand would work together to try to persuade the Khmer Rouge to abide by the Paris accord.

UN Official Seeks Peacekeeping Role in Somalia

OW1808010792 Tokyo KYODO in English 2327 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Nairobi, Aug. 17 KYODO—The UN special representative in Somalia appealed to the Japanese Government Monday to contribute to a peacekeeping mission in the strife-torn African country.

"Japan, like other important countries, should join in helping to establish peace in Somalia," said Mohamed Sahnoun in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Nairobi.

Sahnoun is the special representative of the UN secretary general in Somalia.

"Such contribution and help by the Japanese Government in the security situation or ceasefire monitoring would be very useful and highly welcomed," he said.

He made the comment as the United States and France made final preparations for emergency airlift operations to Somalia.

The United Nations, on its relief operations in Somalia, also is asking the Japanese Government as well as other countries to help directly with humanitarian food aid, which will save millions of people from starvation.

Sahnoun described the situation in Somalia by saying, "From my experience, it is the worst situation so far realized in Africa with 10 to 15 people dying per day."

Although Sahnoun said the 500 peacekeeping troops to be sent to Somalia will not be enough, "it will help in providing security at the food distribution in Mogadishu."

He denied reports of major fighting in the country and said a UN-brokered national conference among the warring factions is the best way to resolve the political differences in Somalia.

Diplomat Rules Out Political Pluralism in SRV

OW1708064692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—Vietnam is incapable of giving up its one-party rule even if it dispenses with the communist model, a Japanese diplomat said in a recently published article.

Hisahiko Okazaki, a former ambassador to Thailand who is awaiting his next ambassadorial assignment, made the remark in a dialogue on Asian security, published in the September edition of VOICE, a Japanese-language scholarly monthly.

"Even if Vietnam were to give up communism, it cannot give up one-party rule and embrace political pluralism," Okazaki said.

The diplomat said that if political activities were given a go-ahead by the government in Hanoi, it would stimulate a further split between the poorer north and the more prosperous southern parts of the country.

Touching on Asian countries' anxieties over Japan's planned dispatch of its military forces overseas to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Okazaki said South Korean concerns about the first such dispatch since World War II are rooted in public opinion and thus are subject to change.

"But China's objections are part of a national strategy and will not change so easily," he said.

Okazaki said if Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) perform well in their role in participating in UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, they may earn the trust of wary Asians who are mindful of Japan's past aggressive military actions.

Rates Lowered on Bank Deposits, Savings Rates

OW1708003492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2359 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—The Finance Ministry and the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry on Monday lowered bank deposit and postal savings rates in line with the July 27 official discount rate cut.

The rate on ordinary bank deposits shed 0.12 percentage point to 0.38 percent per year, the lowest in three years and two months.

The rate on time deposits with maturity period of two years or more came down to 4.07 percent from 4.40 percent.

With respect to postal savings, the ordinary deposit rate was slashed to 1.80 percent from 1.92 percent, and the rate on 24-30 month fixed-amount time deposits fell to 3.92 percent from 4.25 percent.

Meanwhile, a renewed type of market-rate-linked "welfare" deposit and savings accounts was launched the same day for those who live on pensions, such as the elderly and the handicapped, as well as for fatherless families.

The amount that can be put into the one-year welfare deposits and savings accounts was increased to 3 million yen from the 2 million yen available under the previous system, with the annual interest rate set at 4.15 percent.

The July 27 official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan brought down the rate by 0.5 percentage point to 3.25 percent per annum. [passage omitted]

Delay Predicted for Business Investment Recovery
OW1808114492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0949 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—Excessive capital spending in the past and deteriorating profits will likely postpone a recovery in corporate spending on business equipment, the Industrial Bank of Japan said Tuesday.

The bank based the projection on an expectation that the effects of corporate efforts to trim inventories will be felt in the April-June quarter of 1993 instead of the January-March period as widely thought.

A reduction in inventories usually sets the stage for a pickup in production, resulting in higher corporate spending on plant and equipment.

Business spending recoveries have been observed about six months after corporations successfully scale down their inventories.

But the bank said the situation is somewhat different this time as corporations must shave their assets, inflated by past excessive investment, so they can remain profitable. As for inventories, steelmakers and metal product manufacturers are in the final stage of reducing inventories as a result of a substantial cut in production, and their inventories are likely to stay at appropriate levels after this summer, the bank said.

Chemical makers are also making progress in reducing inventories, but those making durable goods, such as big-ticket home appliances, are slow in holding down inventories because of overly optimistic projections for demand, the bank said.

The delay in cutting inventories by durable-goods makers could limit the recovery of business investment in the manufacturing sector as a whole, it said.

LDP Leaders on Economic Stimulative Measures
OW1808125992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 18 KYODO—The top three leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) pledged Tuesday to press for economy-boosting measures including increased public works spending, party officials said.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and two other party leaders made the pledge when they met with Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The meeting was hastily arranged at the request of Hiraiwa as the Nikkei stock average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange closed at its lowest level since March 12, 1986, the same day [as received] amid stagnant economic activity.

Watanuki strongly criticized the government and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) for being optimistic about the economy, describing the state of the economy as "the recession that the country has never experienced in the postwar period," the party officials said.

They said Watanuki implicitly referred to another reduction in the BOJ's official discount rate, saying, "I want to take drastic steps, including financial ones."

Watanuki and the two other LDP officials pointed to advance government purchases of privately held land, a substantial increase in public works spending, and utilization of off-budget government funds such as postal funds as sources for public works projects.

The party officials said the governing party plans to unveil a new package of economic measures on August 28.

Watanuki, Executive Council Chairman Koko Sato, and Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council, pledged the measures as Hiraiwa called for a comprehensive pump-priming package.

Hiraiwa urged the government to draft a supplementary budget as soon as possible, saying that the scale of the stopgap budget should be large enough [words indistinct] expectations of further government spending.

He also proposed a review of taxes on land and real estate, tax breaks on business investment, and low-interest government loans to promote business investment in plant and equipment.

As measures to buoy the faltering stock market, Hiraiwa suggested that public pension and life insurance funds should be allowed to invest in stocks.

North Korea**Antinuclear Conference Urges U.S. To Withdraw Forces***SK1708103392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 17 (KCNA)—We hold that the United States must take measures to make people believe that there is actually no nuclear weapon in South Korea, not confining itself to propaganda about the "withdrawal of nuclear weapons", since it has been proven through the inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has no intention to develop nuclear weapons and does not develop them, said the delegates of the United States, Japan, Canada, the Philippines and New Zealand who participated in the World Conference Against A-H bombs in a resolution they adopted at a seminar on Korea in Nagasaki on August 8.

The resolution demands an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea, saying that there is no excuse for the foreign forces to stay in South Korea any more today when the cold war structure has collapsed and the North-South agreement was adopted.

U.S. Church Council Delegation Arrives 15 Aug*SK1508151992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang August 15 (KCNA)—A delegation of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCCCUSA) led by the Rev. Syngman Rhee [name as received], president of the NCCCUSA, arrived here Saturday.

The delegation was greeted by Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Korean Christians Federation, Ko Ki-chun, general secretary of the C.C., the Korean Christian Federation, and officials concerned.

Meets Yun Ki-pok 17 Aug*SK1708111092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1042 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang August 17 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States headed by President Yi Sung-man at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present on the occasion were Ko Ki-chun, secretary general of the C.C. [Central Committee], Korean Christians Federation, and other officials concerned.

Prayer Meeting Held*SK1708051992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0456 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang August 17 (KCNA)—A Sunday prayer meeting was held at the Pongsu Church in Pyongyang on August 16 for the delegation of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCCCUSA).

Present there were the Rev. Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Korean Christians Federation, the Rev. Ko Ki-chun, general secretary of the C.C., the Korean Christians Federation, Christians in Pyongyang, Korean Christians overseas and foreign Christians.

Also present was the delegation of the NCCCUSA led by the Rev. Syngman Rhee [name as received], its president.

The Rev. Kang Yong-sop delivered a welcome address and the Rev. Syngman Rhee and the Rev. Gordon Sommers, president elect of the NCCCUSA, spoke in reply.

Chief pastor of the Pongsu Church Yi Song-pong preached a sermon.

Although our fellow countrymen live separated in the North and the South, he said, they are brethren of the same blood. Though we differ a little in ideology and idea, we can closely unite with each other, guided by one common national idea of national reunification, and we must pull down the barrier of division by the strength of unity and achieve the reunification of the country.

The South Korean authorities must release all the visitors to the North thrown behind bars on charges of violation of the "National Security Law" and no more suppress or persecute the patriotic figures who are devoting themselves to the struggle for the reunification of the country, he urged.

The prayer meeting closed with a benediction by the Rev. Yi-yul Choe, a member of the delegation of the NCCCUSA.

After the meeting, all the participants rose and fervently sang the song "Our Wish Is Reunification", tightly grasping each other's hands.

Kim Yong-sun Meets PRC Liaison Delegation*SK1708110392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1035 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang August 17 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by Peng Wangdong, deputy secretary general of the department.

Recalling that President Kim Il-song paid a visit to China in October last year and President Yang Shangkun

visited Korea in April this year, the head of the delegation said the Sino-Korean friendship provided by the leaders of the two countries would grow stronger and develop, no matter how complex the international situation might be.

The Chinese people will as ever render full support to the struggle for the reunification of Korea, he stressed.

Saying they were deeply moved at the achievements of Korea in socialist construction while visiting various places, he sincerely wished the Korean people greater success in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

PRC Science, Technology Delegation Arrives

*SK1408152592 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 13 Aug 92*

[Text] A delegation from the China Association for Science and Technology of the Chinese Government led by Li Xiaoshi, vice minister of the State Science and Technology Commission, arrived in Pyongyang by train today.

Kim Ung-ho, vice chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, and officials from the PRC Embassy in our country greeted the delegation at the Pyongyang railroad station.

Japanese Leaders' Shrine Visit Sign of Militarism

*SK1408114092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1052 GMT 14 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang August 14 (KCNA)—Fifteen cabinet ministers of Japan reportedly have officially "visited" or will "visit" the "Yasukuni Shrine" in Tokyo on the occasion of the day of the end of World War II.

In 1990, eighteen cabinet ministers and 198 Liberal-Democratic members of the House and, last year, twelve cabinet ministers officially paid "homage" to the "Yasukuni Shrine."

This "visit" which has been paid every year like an "annual function" tells that the Japanese reactionaries are still harbouring the old dream of "greater east Asia co-prosperity sphere" and how desperately they are working to instil the revanchist idea in the people, dreaming of militarist revival.

As far as the "Yasukuni Shrine" is concerned, it is a place haunted by the "departed souls" of the top-class war criminals including Tojo and other Japanese imperialist aggressors who had ignited the war of aggression and slaughtered many Asian people. It is also a place used as a stronghold for imbuing people with the militarist idea.

The Japanese authorities' collective "visit to the Yasukuni Shrine" proves that they are intending to set out on the road of overseas aggression, following in the footsteps of the war criminals, far from reflecting on and

repenting of the criminal aggression, massacre and pillage they had committed against the Korean and other Asian nations in the past.

It must not go unnoticed that the Japanese authorities are whipping up the militarist idea through the "visit to the Yasukuni Shrine," timing to coincide with the troop dispatch overseas of the "Self-Defence Forces" which they have "legalized", thus paving the way for overseas aggression.

This dangerous move of the Japanese reactionaries toward the revival of militarism is calling forth due vigilance from among the Korean and other Asian peoples and among the Japanese people.

The Japanese authorities must know clearly that it is good for them to act with discretion, drawing a serious historical lesson from the disgraceful defeat in World War II.

If they opt to take the road of overseas aggression again, not discarding the ambition for militarist revival, they would drink a bitterer cup of defeat than the Tojo clique.

Koreans in Japan Mark Liberation Anniversary

*SK1708102592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1001 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang August 17 (KCNA)—A central meeting of Koreans in Japan commemorating the 47th anniversary of August 15 national liberation was held in Tokyo on August 14.

Present at the meeting were chairman Han Tok-su, first Vice-Chairman Yi Chin-kyu, Vice-Chairmen Pak Chaeno and Ho Chong-man, of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), Chongnyon officials and Koreans in Japan.

Speaking at the meeting, first Vice-Chairman Yi Chin-kyu said that the Korean people were liberated from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism 47 years ago, but have been forced to misfortunes and sufferings resulting from the division of the country and the nation by the U.S. imperialists for nearly half a century.

Noting that the South Korean authorities have been consistently resorting to a delaying tactics, neglecting an honest implementation of the North-South agreement at the beck and call of the United States, he cited concrete examples such as outcries over the "nuclear problem," kidnapping of old man Yi In-mo and the blocking of the opening of the pan-national rally in Seoul.

He strongly demanded that the U.S. authorities make a drastic switchover in its Korea policy by improving their relations with the DPRK, not antagonizing it, and by cooperating in Korea's reunification, not obstructing it.

He appealed to all the Chongnyon officials and Koreans in Japan to turn out as one man in the movement to

achieve national reunification in the 90s, holding the patriotic slogan, the slogan of great national unity "let us make tangible contributions to the cause of national reunification, those who have strength by giving strength, those who have knowledge by devoting knowledge and those who have money by donating money".

A letter to the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song was adopted at the meeting.

Party Leadership of Economic Work Stressed

*SK1508093192 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0014 GMT 8 Aug 92*

[NODONG SINMUN 8 August special article: "The Party's Political Leadership of Economic Work Is the Natural Demand of Socialism"]

[Text] In order to constantly and rapidly accelerate socialist economic construction and highly display the essential superiority of socialism it is important to strengthen the party's political leadership for the economy.

In conforming the party's political leadership to the inherent nature of the economy, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il strengthened the party's political leadership and elucidated the ideology and theory of further developing the socialist economy.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has stated: Only under the working class party's leadership can socialist economic construction be correctly carried out.

By further strengthening and firmly adhering to the party's political leadership system for construction of the economy we should develop the socialist economy in conformity with the political mission of the revolution and the essence of socialism.

In short, our socialism is the popular one that centers on the masses and embodies the *chuche* idea. Our society reflects the basic characteristics of an ideal society where the popular masses are the genuine masters and benefit from everything the society has to offer.

We should enable the popular masses to exercise their right as masters of economic management in order to accelerate economic construction in conformity with the intrinsic demands of our country's socialism. In addition, we should enable them to fulfill their responsibility and play their role as masters in the production and managerial activities.

Increasing political awareness and creative positiveness will encourage the popular masses to participate in economic management as masters and display their creative capability fully. Economic management should conform with the will and demands of the popular masses.

Along with this, it is important to solve all problems in socialist construction through the socialist principle and method.

Important problems arising in socialist economic construction correctly elucidate the future road of the revolution and construction. These can be solved only by a working class party capable of organizing and mobilizing the popular masses.

The party's political leadership is first a basic guarantee for giving full play to the creative capability of the popular masses in economic activities. The superiority of socialist economy lies in giving full play to the boundless creative capability of the popular masses, who are its master.

The popular masses' creative ability can be demonstrated most when they are firmly solidified into a socio-political organism based on their outlook on collective life. Solidifying the popular masses into a powerful, creative socio-political organism can be realized by the working class party's political leadership.

The purpose of the party's political leadership is to guide the revolutionary struggle and the construction work politically by getting people active through political work.

The party sets a goal and direction for socialist economic construction; inspires the popular masses to carry out the revolutionary tasks through political work and the work with the people; and guides them to correctly implement its lines and policies.

Only when the party's political leadership is firmly guaranteed can all people participating in economic activities be armed with the party's economic policy and be firmly rallied around the party and the leader and can socialist economic construction be vigorously accelerated by enhancing their creative strength and wisdom to the maximum. The party's political leadership is also the basic method for managing and operating the socialist economy in conformity with the popular masses' will and demands.

For the popular masses to occupy the position of masters in economic management and to take responsibility for and play the role of masters, economic management in a socialist society should conform to the demands and interests of the popular masses. Even if social conditions for becoming the masters in economic management have been provided in the socialist society, if economic management fails to conform to the popular masses' will and demands, the popular masses cannot exercise their rights as master of economic management nor can they assume their responsibility and role.

The party's political leadership makes it possible for economic organs and enterprises to manage and operate the economy in conformity with the popular masses' will and demands. The guiding principle that makes it possible for economic organs and enterprises to carry out economic activities in conformity with the popular masses' will and demands is precisely the party's lines and policies.

Our party establishes all of its lines and policies in conformity with our people's independent aspiration and demands. Our party always mingles with the masses to grasp correctly their aspiration and demands and to analyze extensively specific realities. Based on this, our party maps out and presents lines and policies in conformity with these specific realities. Therefore, all party lines and policies most correctly elucidate the goal, direction, detailed tasks, and methods of the struggle to safeguard and realize the popular masses' independence at every time and phase of the revolution and construction.

When the party's lines and policies are thoroughly safeguarded and implemented in all economic organs and enterprises by strengthening the party's political leadership, the economy can be managed and operated in conformity with the popular masses' demands and interests.

The party's political leadership is also the indispensable requirement for adhering to socialist principle and for embodying socialist method in socialist economic construction. Socialism based on collectivism is a society that develops on a totally different principle from capitalism, which is based on individualism. Socialism is incomparably superior to capitalism.

If we renounce socialist principles merely on the pretext of momentary difficulties in the course of socialist construction, we cannot make the masses of working people the genuine masters of the economy nor can we exalt the inherent superiority of socialism. Firmly guaranteeing the party's political leadership is an important requirement in thoroughly eradicating capitalist elements in economic construction, in resolutely safeguarding and defending the socialist economic system based on collectivism, and in constantly consolidating and developing the system, because the party's political leadership can solve all problems arising in socialist construction based on socialist principles, under the principle of enhancing superiority of socialism, and by the method of activating the inexhaustible creative power of the popular masses, the main force of the revolution.

In socialist economic construction our party not only always leads state economic organs to realize economic and technological guidance under the guidance of party organization, but also firmly guarantees the unified and planned guidance by the state. Based on this, our party asks each economic unit to increase initiative, to have a unified economic command within the scope of ensuring democracy, and to combine political and moral incentive with material incentive while giving priority to the former.

This kind of party leadership has become a firm guarantee that makes it possible to adhere to the revolutionary principle of the working class in economic management and to scientifically and reasonably manage and operate the economy in conformity with the inherent nature of the socialist system.

Indeed, the party's political leadership is the lifeline of socialist economic construction and the source of its superiority and vitality. The proud reality of our

country, in which constant upsurge and progress are being effected in socialist construction under our party's wise leadership, is eloquent proof of this.

Our party created and thoroughly implemented the chuche-oriented and unique Taean work system in an effort to strengthen the party's political leadership of socialist economic construction. The collective guidance by party committee in socialist economic management is the basic core of the Taean work system. The Taean work system ensures that the party committees, as the supreme guidance organs of their appropriate units, discuss and decide all problems in economic management collectively. It also ensures that party functionaries and administrative and economic functionaries organize and complete their tasks according to the subjects discussed and decided upon at party committees.

Collective guidance by party committee is synonymous with policy-oriented guidance, that is, political guidance. This is totally different from administrative and economic organs' guidance for administrative job performance and their economic and technological guidance. The collective guidance by party committee determines the direction and methods for the execution of the party's economic policy, resorting to the collective wisdom of the masses, and leads the problems discussed and decided at party committee to be correctly executed.

The unique nature of the collective guidance by party committee, which is embodied in the Taean work system, lies in guiding economic work in a policy-oriented manner, that is, politically. Collective guidance by party committee makes it possible to guarantee the superiority of political guidance in economic construction and to organically combine political guidance with economic and technological guidance. This is because the party committee collectively discusses and decides all problems necessary to implement the party's lines and policies and establishes measures and detailed plans for their correct execution; administrative and economic functionaries conduct economic and technological work and administrative and organizational work in accordance with the direction and assignments discussed and decided at the party committee; and party functionaries and functionaries of public organizations conduct political work.

Collective guidance by party committee thoroughly eliminates individual subjectivity and arbitrariness in economic management and makes it possible to discuss and decide collectively the direction and methods of executing tasks that implement the party's policies by summing up the will and demands of the broad producer masses and to successfully execute these tasks by inspiring the revolutionary zeal and creative positiveness of the producer masses.

With the thorough embodiment of the unique economic management Taean work system under the wise leadership of the party, the party's politically unified guidance on

economic construction has been successfully realized; constant miracles and innovations have been effected in production and construction by organizing and mobilizing the creative power of the masses through work with people, that is, political work; and, thus, the superiority and might of the socialist system have been fully demonstrated.

Practical experience in our country's socialist construction clearly proves that there is no more superior economic management system than the Taean work system in economic construction and that the genuine way to strengthen the party's political leadership in economic construction is to implement the Taean work system thoroughly.

3d Pan-National Rally Hailed as 'Epochal Event'

*SK1808051292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0418 GMT 18 Aug 92*

["Epochal Event Giving Powerful Impetus to Nation's Reunification Movement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang August 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an editorial hailing the successful holding of the third pan-national rally [PNR] for peace and reunification of the country at Panmunjom on August 15 amid great expectation and concern of the 70 million fellow countrymen.

The editorial titled "Epochal Event Giving Powerful Impetus to Nation's Reunification Movement" reads in part:

The PNR heard and discussed a keynote report of the overseas headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), a keynote report of the South side's headquarters sent to the third PNR and a keynote report of the North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and adopted with unanimous approval a joint resolution for peace and reunification of the country, an appeal to the fellow countrymen at home and abroad, a letter to the authorities of the North and the South and a letter to the Japanese Government authorities.

Notably, the formation of the Pan-National Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon), the first organization of the reunification movement of Korean youth and students in the North, South and overseas, was proclaimed simultaneously at Panmunjom and in Seoul that day and its program and rules were adopted. It is another event inspiring our nation's reunification movement.

The third pan-national rally was, indeed, a historical theatre of reunification negotiation where delegates of broad segments at home and from overseas sit face to face and had heart-to-heart talks on the way of the promotion of the national reunification and reached consensus. It was also a rally of national unity, a rally of reunification, which recorded another brilliant chapter in the history of the national reunification movement by firmly uniting the fellow countrymen of all walks of life and youth and

students at home and abroad under the flags of Pomminnyon and Pomchonghaknyon and arousing them to the nationwide reunification movement.

Recalling that the South side's headquarters for the promotion of the PNR and the National Council of Student Representatives held functions in Seoul as scheduled at the same time and on the same subjects, despite the open challenge of the South Korean authorities against the pro-reunification patriotic forces in the North, South and overseas, the editorial continues:

This showed that no matter how desperately the separatists at home and abroad may run, they cannot block the action of the pro-reunification patriotic forces to accelerate national reunification with great national unity.

Referring to the important tasks of Pomminnyon and all other pro-reunification patriotic forces at home and abroad, the editorial calls upon all Koreans in the North, South and overseas to closely unite under the flag of Pomminnyon with fighting spirit and conviction of certain reunification and put new spurs to the pan-national grand march for reunification and thus open a decisive phase for reunification in the 90s.

Visiting Groups Exchange Said Depends on South

*SK1508104792 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0027 GMT 12 Aug 92*

[NODONG SINMUN 12 August commentary: "It Wholly Depends on the South Side's Attitude"]

[Text] At the fifth meeting of the North-South Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee 10 August, the South made insidious remarks about the work of exchanging elderly parents' visiting groups. The South distorted facts by saying that the work on exchanging elderly parents' visiting groups was on the verge of failure because our side made unreasonable preconditions. It also brazenly urged our side to withdraw those preconditions. The South also made the challenging and treacherous remark that it had not changed its position of trying to worsen North-South relations and obstruct the work of exchanging elderly parents' visiting groups. This extremely shameless act is designed to let the South Korean authorities blame us for having driven the work on exchanging old parents' visiting groups to a crisis. This is another indication that there is no change in the South side's criminal intention of returning North-South relations to a state of confrontation.

The South side should withdraw the various preconditions it talks about. At the Red Cross working-level contacts, our side raised the issues of stopping its nuclear commotions, repatriating old man Yi In-mo, and canceling the Focus Lens war exercises because they are grave obstacles to implementing the North-South agreement and exchanging old parent's visiting groups. These are far from fictitious.

We proposed the exchange of old parents' visiting groups, and both sides agreed to it. This work purports to give joy to the people and to expedite reconciliation and unity by creating a good atmosphere for implementing the agreement. Therefore, the work of exchanging old parents' visiting groups is unthinkable apart from practical procedures to implement the North-South agreement.

When the seventh North-South high-level talks were held, the South did not say that if the nuclear issue is not resolved, it would shelve implementation of the North-South agreement or conduct a large-scale war exercise for northward invasion against us at the same time old parents' visiting groups are exchanged. The South also promised to repatriate old man Yi In-mo before old parents' visiting groups were exchanged.

After the seventh North-South high-level talks, when various subcommittee meetings and working-level Red Cross contacts on implementation of the North-South agreement were being held, the South Korean authorities made preposterous nuclear commotions, announced their plan to conduct the Focus Lens war exercises, and refused to repatriate old man Yi In-mo. On top of this, persons in authority in South Korea even said that the work of exchanging old parents' visiting groups cannot advance without resolving the nuclear issue, making the resolution of the nuclear issue a precondition for the work. Needless to say, this raises a grave obstacle to implementing the North-South agreement for reconciliation, unity, peace, and reunification and to exchanging old parents' visiting groups.

It is none other than the South Korean authorities who presented preconditions and who drove the work of exchanging the old parents' visiting groups to a crisis and abortion. It is also the South side's Red Cross officials who, following the authorities, opposed designating the date of the next contact at the eighth contact of Red Cross working-level delegates, asserting that it was unnecessary. It is also they who distorted facts by babbling that the contact had completely ruptured because of our side.

Nothing can justify the South side's shirking of its responsibility for driving the exchange of old parents' visiting groups to a crisis. If the South side, even in a minor way, is interested in exchanging old parents' visiting groups, it should not blame others but should stop making a provocative nuclear commotion, abandon its ill-willed intention of trying to turn the issue of repatriating old man Yi In-mo into a political bargaining tool, and immediately cancel the Focus Lens war exercises. The success or failure of exchanging old parents' visiting groups depends entirely upon the South side's attitude.

South Responsible for Failure in Visit Exchanges

*SK1808051992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0427 GMT 18 Aug 92*

["South Side Urged To Take Position To Save Exchange of Visiting Groups From Crisis"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang August 18 (KCNA)—The South side must immediately repatriate Yi In-mo, deeply repent of its deed and take a sincere position to save the exchange of visiting groups from the crisis, though belatedly, urges NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article says:

The exchange of old parents' visiting groups and art troupes which were put on the order of the day as the first special undertaking to show the practical will for the implementation of the inter-Korean agreement is now on the verge of failure. The responsibility for this entirely rests with the South Korean authorities and the South Korean Red Cross which followed them.

The South side, breaking its promise to the North, refused even to discuss the repatriation of Yi In-mo at the contact of Red Cross delegates. The "prime minister" of the South side in a letter to the North side said Yi In-mo could not be sent back, thus throwing a dark shadow over the exchange of old parents' visiting groups and art troupes which is directly linked with the repatriation of the old man.

From the outset of the contact of delegates, the South Korean Red Cross side took a wrong attitude, defending the unreasonable acts of the authorities who were laying artificial obstacles to inter-Korean dialogue by raising a hue and cry over the "nuclear" problem.

It evaded its responsibility, claiming that the repatriation of the old man is a "separate issue" that had nothing to do with the Red Cross work.

The recent missing of Yi In-mo more clearly showed the South Korean authorities' intention to bring the exchange of visiting groups and art troupes to a rupture.

It is evident to everyone that old Yi had been whisked away by agents of the "Security Planning Board", prosecution and police.

It is no more than a hypocrisy to talk about "sufferings" of separated families while shunning the most urgent humanitarian issue such as the repatriation of Yi.

All these facts clearly show that the South Korean authorities and Red Cross had no intention from the beginning to realise the exchange of visiting groups, let alone the repatriation of Yi In-mo.

Tourist Company Director Defects From South

*SK1408130892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1059 GMT 14 Aug 92*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—Cho Kyong-chol, 38, a director on the Segi Tourist Company, Ltd. of South Korea, came over to the northern half of Korea.

Hailing from Seoul, he served in the army for three years after graduating from a high school. He ran a restaurant

and a draper's shop in Seoul from 1981 and worked as a director of the Segi Tourist Company, Ltd. from the beginning of 1992.

Born and growing up in the corrupt and ailing South Korean society, I was disillusioned about the South Korean society plagued with irregularities and longed for socialist North Korea, when serving in the army, hearing many stories that everyone there enjoys an equal life without worry about living, he said, adding: I came to the North with a view to contributing, if only a little, to the cause of national reunification.

South Korea

Government, Businesses Plan Measures for NAFTA

SK1808034692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 18 Aug 92 p 8

[Text] The government will encourage Korean companies to make more direct investments in North America, Mexico in particular.

It will provide financial favors and tax breaks to firms relocating their manufacturing plants to Mexico and will seek to conclude accords on investment protection and double taxation avoidance with the North American country.

To facilitate the signing of the two trade-related accords, the trade ministers of Korea and Mexico will likely hold talks possibly in October, government officials said.

These and other measures were decided at a meeting of Korean government and business representatives to discuss measures to minimize the possible adverse effects the successful conclusion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) last week may have on Korea's export-led economy.

The free trade pact calls for, among other things, eventually abolishing tariff and nontariff trade barriers between the United States, Canada and Mexico, and applying stricter rule-of-origin requirements on produce exported to the NAFTA region by non-regional countries.

Korea, which relies heavily on exports for economic growth, has nervously watched the progress of the NAFTA talks, worried about Mexico's emergence as formidable export rival in the U.S. market, the government will promote to conclude analysts here say. [sentence as published]

To help cushion the impact of the NAFTA, and in particular the challenge posed by Mexico in the U.S. market, the government will promote to conclude a business agreement between the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. and the Foreign Commercial Services of the U.S. Commerce Department as well as an industry-technology cooperative accord between Korea Institute for Economics and Technology and U.S. National Technical Information Service.

The government and business officials plus academicians attending the meeting also decided to stage a "technology fair" under the cosponsorship of the Korean and U.S. governments. Detailed measures for the tech show are to be worked out soon.

Also decided in the meeting, presided over by First Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry Yu Tuk-hwan were:

- An agreement to dispatch a joint government-business investment mission to Mexico and other Latin American countries, including Chile, to prepare for the possible expansion of the free trade agreement to Central and South America.

- A tour by KFTA representatives to small and medium-sized companies throughout the country to explain the effects of the NAFTA.

- Establishment of industrial task forces to reduce the possible adverse effects on their exports.

MTI's [Ministry of Trade and Industry] Yu said in the meeting that although Korean exporters' will be seriously affected by the three-country free trade pact, all the effects do not necessarily have to be negative.

"Provided that our businesses successfully sharpen their competitive edge through tech development and quality improvement, they can certainly tide over the new export difficulties," Yu said.

Businesses participants said that Korean exports to the United States, so far centered around low-cost goods, should turn to higher value-added products with Mexico as transshipment point and manufacturing bases.

In this regard, the businessmen called for the government to set up an industrial estate in Mexico exclusively for Korean firms, and help smaller firms advance into the market, possibly through joint ventures with large enterprises.

The private sector shared the view that the success of small and midsized parts and components makers into Mexico will hold the key for Korean firms adapting to the changes occurring in the North American market.

Later in the day, assistant minister level officials of related ministries held a similar meeting and decided to activate an interministerial council on the NAFTA.

Experts To Join UN Weapons Inspectors in Iraq

SK1808042092 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
18 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] The government has decided to participate in UN inspection activities for the removal of mass destruction weapons and plans to dispatch two chemical weapons experts to the UN weapons inspection team later this month.

The experts will join the UN inspection team for three months to carry out weapons inspection in Iraq, along with

other experts from thirteen countries. This is the first time that the government has decided to participate in military inspection activities for the fulfillment of UN resolutions.

A high-ranking government source said on 17 August: "The special commission for the removal of Iraqi mass destruction weapons" formed under the UN Security Council had asked our country to join the UN inspection team.

The source said: After discussing the UN request at meetings of ministries concerned, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, the government concluded that it would be better to join the UN inspection team as a member state of the United Nations and has officially informed the United Nations of its plan to dispatch experts in chemical weapons later this month.

The UN weapon inspection team was formed in early 1991 after the Gulf war ended in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution. Its mission is to inspect and destroy Iraqi nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons, and ballistic missiles with a range of over 150 Kilometers. It has visited Iraq 40 times so far to conduct inspections.

The United States and Iraq are now in dispute over additional inspections by the UN inspection team in the Iraqi Ministry of Military Industrialization and Ministry of Defense buildings following the inspection of its Ministry of Agriculture. The U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that the Bush administration plans to launch air strikes on Baghdad if Iraq refuses to accept the U.S request for additional inspections of facilities for mass destruction weapon development in Iraq. This draws deep attention from the people in the world.

Kim Tae-chung Suggests Asian-U.S. Security Body
SK1708042592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, co-chairman of the main opposition Democratic Party, called for a new Asian security structure with all Asian countries Monday [17 August], the United States and Russia included.

In a lecture on the new world order and Korea-Japan relations, Kim said that a kind of 1975 Helsinki declaration was needed to realize lasting peace in Asia.

The need for a united front against Russia and China shrank sharply with the end of cold war, he said.

"We are at the stage of having to seek cooperative ties with the two countries that were once our imaginary adversaries," Kim said.

He accused Japan of making insincere apologies for its wartime atrocities and noted that Germany showed outright remorse and repentance for its brutal acts after the war.

Japan had to make clear its position on the settlement of past wrongdoings as reliably as Germany had for better mutual understanding and cooperation between Korea and Japan, he said.

Liaison Office in Vietnam Begins Consular Work
SK1708052992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean liaison office in Hanoi officially began consular functions Monday, the Foreign Ministry announced.

The three-member office was in partial operation after opening July 20 inside the Pohang Iron and Steel Co. building in Hanoi. The two countries, yet without diplomatic ties, agreed to exchange the offices as a prelude.

A Vietnamese advance team is expected here early next month to open a liaison office in Seoul.

Amb. Pak No-su, appointed Monday as chief of the Hanoi office, will take up his post by the end of September.

Relations With Japan Still 'Haunted' by Past
SK1408123692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 14 Aug 92

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—Forty-seven years after Korea's liberation from decades of Japanese rule, both nations are haunted by the past.

They recently resumed dealing with Japan's responsibility for its 35 years of colonial rule over Korea, especially atrocities from the World War II years, because South Korea has emerged as Asia's new power country due to its economic development.

The timing is rather unfortunate for Japan, which needs to bury its dark past to become an international political power.

South Korea is the singlemost hitch in Japan's quest, and this is why bilateral relations are in serious trouble.

This trouble bursts out in concrete terms—recognition of and reparations for war crimes such as using Korean women as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

Backed by its elevated international status, South Korea is saying what it could not say in the past and wants to decide when Japan "has done enough" to recompense.

But the dilemma is that South Korea will have to decide quickly. Japan is advancing in the world, and although it cannot ignore South Korea in its global pursuit, neither will it be stopped by South Korea.

South Korean diplomats face a dilemma of having to counter Japan over the past but at the same time formulating new cooperative ties with Japan for South Korea's own benefit.

If there was ever a time to rethink Seoul-Tokyo relations, officials here say, it is now.

Japan's presence in Asia is overpowering. There are an average 30,000 Japanese living in each country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore—compared to approximately 70 (minus diplomats) in South Korea.

Of Japan's 1.1 million U.S. dollars of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries, 30-40 percent goes to ASEAN-member nations.

Japan now seeks commensurate political power in the region and expresses its desire by participating in U.N. Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and by seeking a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

To put its foot down stronger in the region, Japan is trying to forge better ties with China, beginning with Emperor Akihito's symbolic visit to Beijing in October.

But South Korea grew, too. It gained UN membership and became the seventh full dialogue partner to ASEAN, joining economic powerhouses like Japan, the United States and the European Community.

South Korea put down its foot in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) by hosting the third annual conference in Seoul last year and has a chance of housing its permanent secretariat.

Most of all, South and North Korea began high-level talks and considerably weakened Japan's diplomatic game of pitting Seoul against Pyongyang.

"I clearly remember South Korea-Japan relations just 10 years ago. It wasn't diplomacy for us at the time. We did not have any influence, and we were too busy trying to get Japan to favor us over North Korea," Kim Sok-u, director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry, says.

But now that South Korea has grown diplomatically, some are calling on Seoul to show it by settling the past through its own efforts rather than relying on Japan to do it.

The settlement dispute for the comfort women is a primary example.

South Korea failed to address the comfort women issue and seek proper compensation before giving up all rights to future claims when normalizing ties with Japan in 1965, mainly due to South Korea's weak position in the past.

Some demand that Japan pay compensation to the tens of thousands of women taken to frontline brothels and forced into prostitution for Japanese soldiers. Others say the South Korean Government should pay the compensation.

"What would getting the compensation from Japan prove?" asks a Foreign Ministry official who is a member of the government task force on comfort women.

People like this official claim that once Japan fully admits its atrocity, including the fact that it recruited the women by force, South Korea should end it right there and then and refuse compensation even if Japan offers it.

"Why? Why should the South Korean Government pay for Japan's wrongdoing? I want Japan to pay. I want Japan to pay for my lost youth and my ruined life," insists Sim Mi-ja, 69, who has gone public as a former comfort woman.

Sim describes how she was taken forcibly at the age of 16 by a policeman who came to her school one day. When she awoke after being tortured by having her fingernails pulled off and being given electric shocks, she found herself in a brothel in Fukuoka where she served 20 to 30 men a day.

People like Sim are determined to get Japan to pay them compensation.

Opinions are split on which side should bear how much of the obligation in settling the past, and the South Korean Government has yet to decide on where to draw the line.

Officials here refuse to believe that South Korea-Japan relations have worsened, despite the proliferation of sensitive issues like the comfort women.

"Relations will never go back to 10 or 20 years ago, when South Korea virtually had no power. We can truly negotiate now. We have a mechanism for talking things out," Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Friday when asked to comment on Seoul-Tokyo ties.

"It may appear to be worsening because we are going through a time of transition. We are in the middle of readjusting our bilateral relations," he said.

South Koreans do not say what they will do, but they say what they cannot do, and that is to act out of emotion.

"All the issues of the past with Japan are truly emotional. But we cannot counter Japan with emotion. We have to counter it with reason. This is the only way to exert influence, to make Japan listen to us," Kim says.

Need for Japan Admission on Comfort Women Stressed
SK1408033792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT
14 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea reiterated Friday that Japan must admit to full truths about recruiting Korean women as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II before compensations can be discussed.

The message was delivered in an hour-long meeting between Kim Sok-u, director-general of Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, and Japan's Socialist Party delegation visiting here.

The Japanese delegation headed by lower house parliamentarian Kozo Igarashi came to Seoul Wednesday to meet with political leaders and wartime victims to discuss compensation measures. Another party delegation is currently in North Korea on a same mission.

Igarashi explained his party's position that the Tokyo government should compensate the "comfort women," an euphemistic name given to the sex slaves placed in frontline brothels to serve Japanese soldiers during the war.

Kim stressed that Japan must first reveal the entire truths about the comfort women, including the fact that the Japanese imperial army took the women by force.

Tokyo admitted formally for the first time in January that its government was involved in establishing and operating the brothels but said it did not find any evidence that the women were coerced.

"We repeated that the burden is on Tokyo's side to prove there was no forcible measures involved since Tokyo destroyed the wartime documents," Kim said after the meeting.

"We noted that all truths must come out and then the two countries can start discussing compensation. Unless the matter is settled once and for all now, it is bound to come up again in a few years," Kim said.

Foreign Minister Discusses Regional Issues

*SK1508045692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 15 Aug 92 p 2*

[By staff reporter Kim Hye-won]

[Text] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok yesterday responded positively to Australia's proposal for a summit of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) countries.

He said Seoul's position is that such a summit is desirable but should not be hurried.

APEC countries have not begun full-scale discussions on the idea though they informally talked about it at last month's ASEAN postministerial conference in Manila and on other occasions, he said.

"I expect these countries to begin negotiations on the summit next year," Yi told reporters in a weekly news briefing, adding that ASEAN members are now passive to the suggestion.

He said the issue will be also dealt with at the fourth APEC ministerial conference in Bangkok Sept. 10-11.

Australia last year proposed to upgrade the annual APEC ministerial conference to a summit beginning in 1993.

APEC, which came into being in 1989 under the initiative of Australia, to discuss economic cooperation in the region, groups 15 countries—six of them ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the United States and Taiwan.

Minister Yi said these countries will decide where to base the APEC secretariat at the Bangkok conference.

Singapore and Bangkok are vying to host the secretariat, while Jakarta and Manila are also showing interest.

Yi said the secretariat will be located in an ASEAN capital when the ASEAN countries produce a single candidate because of the importance of ASEAN in the future of APEC.

He said he will have separate talks with foreign ministers of APEC countries including the United States, Japan and China while he attends the Bangkok conference.

Yi, however, refused to say whether he will be able to conclude normalization negotiations between Seoul and Beijing during his talks with Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Bangkok.

"Let's wait and see. We have not set a deadline for normalizing ties with China," he said.

The government has not yet decided whether to dispatch infantry troops to conflict areas under the U.N. peacekeeping forces, Yi said. The decision will be made after further consultations with the National Assembly, he said.

Seoul will send a reply to a U.N. questionnaire on the scope of its participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations around Sept. 15, he said.

Even if Seoul decides to send troops, the minister ruled out the possibility of sending them to Cambodia.

The Foreign and Defense ministries have been at odds over whether to send combat troops abroad under the U.N. sponsorship since the United Nations inquired Seoul of the scope of its PKO participation early this year.

The Defense Ministry wants to include combat troops, while the Foreign Ministry prefers non-combatant participation first.

Turning to inter-Korean issues, Minister Yi said South Korea will first watch the result of the eighth round of South-North prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang and a board of governors' meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), both in September, before reviewing its policy toward North Korea's nuclear capability.

"At present, there is no change in the position of Seoul and Washington on the issue," he said.

Inter-Korean talks on bilateral nuclear inspections have hit a deadlock, failing to produce inspection rules.

Minister Yi said the Vietnamese government will open a liaison office in Seoul in the building which used to house the South Vietnamese Embassy before the end of the Vietnam War in 1973. It is located in Hannam-tong, central Seoul.

He said the government will also return to Vietnam a building which was the residence of the South Vietnamese ambassador.

Seoul is expected to recover its former embassy building in Ho Chi Minh City but has not decided its use, he said.

South Korea opened a liaison office in Hanoi last month.

South Korea and Vietnam in April agreed to exchange liaison offices in each other's capital as a preliminary step for normalization of ties. The two may upgrade the relationship by the end of this year.

Seoul To Help Russia Convert Military Plants

*SK1808031992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Aug 92 p 8*

[Text] Timed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's state visit slated for the middle of next month, the government is determined to strengthen its economic and trade cooperation with Russia.

In particular, the government will call upon Russia to allow Korean enterprises to take part in the privatization of its state-run companies during Yeltsin's visit.

Other steps include the expansion of Korean investment in special economic zones in the Russian Far East and the establishment of a Korean industrial complex in one of the Russian maritime provinces.

According to reliable government sources, economic-related ministries will map out a wide range of measures by the end of this month to promote economic and trade exchanges with Russia.

The measures will be forwarded to President No Tae-u and be extensively discussed during his summit with Yeltsin.

The sources said that the government will call upon Russia to allow Korean businesses to take part in the development of its natural resources such as crude oil, gas, coal and other mining products.

Russia will be also requested to permit Korean enterprises to participate in the commercialization of its defense industrial facilities.

Specifically, the government will ask Russia to allow Korean business concerns to supply related facilities in the course of commercializing its defense industry.

The government is also considering purchasing some of the Russian defense industrial companies to operate them as joint ventures with Russia.

In the meantime, the commercialization of 74 Russian sophisticated science and military technologies by Korean businesses will be thoroughly discussed during Yeltsin's trip.

The use of Russian scientists in Korean companies is one of the major topics for the promotion of economic and trade cooperation with Russia.

The sources said that the government is set to settle the issue of Russia's guarantee for the payment of Korea's economic aid loans to the former Soviet Union during Yeltsin's state visit.

Early last year, Korea agreed with the now defunct Soviet Union to provide a \$3 billion three-year aid package next year to boost its backward economy.

Korea has so far supplied \$1 billion in cash to the old Soviet Union and \$473 million in tied loans in order to help it purchase Korean-made consumer goods such as household electronics and daily necessities.

Russia is strongly calling upon Korea to resume its economic aid loans by promising that it will pay those given to the former Soviet Union and the remainder to be supplied to it under any circumstances.

The sources said that the government will start holding working-level negotiations with Russia on the grounds that it submits a legal document to Korea guaranteeing the payment of loans and pays outstanding interest on the amount channeled to the old Soviet Union.

Exports to Middle East Reportedly Rise Sharply

*SK1708082092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0713 GMT
17 Aug 92*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea's exports to the Middle East have risen sharply in recent months, sources at the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) said Monday [17 August].

Exports to the region during the first six months of the year totaled 1.8 billion dollars, up 34.5 percent over the same period a year earlier, according to the sources.

The sharp increase in exports to the region is primarily attributable to economic recovery following the Gulf war and to market opening.

In the meantime, Japan exported 3.9 billion dollars worth of commodities to the region during the first four months of the year, up 189.9 percent over the corresponding period the previous year.

Japan is also expanding direct investment in the region, the sources added.

South To Seek New Date for Family Reunions

SK1808034392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT
18 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a feasibility study team to the North Korean port of Nampo this month as agreed earlier and will seek to set a new date for reunions of separated family members in the eighth high-level talks in Pyongyang Sept. 15-18, government officials said Tuesday.

In a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Chon Won-sik, it was also decided that the visit to the North of Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu would be discussed after an invitation arrived.

The participants resolved to adopt supplementary agreements and effectuate them during the high-level meeting to be attended by prime ministers from both sides.

As a follow-up to the dispatch of the feasibility study team, Seoul will allow South Koreans to contact North Koreans for talks on economic cooperation and give licenses to persons or entities for projects in the North.

However, even the licensed people or institutions will be banned from engaging in substantial economic cooperation with North Korea unless the North settles the issue over its nuclear development.

Official Says Food Rationing Increases in North

SK1408055092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT
14 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Food rationing is getting stricter and factories are operating at 40-50 percent of capacity in North Korea, a National Unification Board official said Friday [15 August].

The North needs 6.7 million tons of grain this year, but last year's harvest was 5.3 million tons, he said.

Rations, introduced in 1973, were cut 10 percent recently, for a total reduction of 25 percent since June. Soldiers now receive 624 grams of grain a day, down from 800 grams.

Pyongyang tried to import 1 million tons of food, but could buy only 300,000 tons because it spent all its foreign exchange on President Kim Il-song's birthday party in April.

The North has produced an annual average of 5.1 million tons of food since the mid-1980s and imported 900,000 tons a year from China, the Soviet Union and Thailand, the official said.

An energy shortage meant the Kim Chaek and Chongjin Steel Mills were often idle due to frequent power cuts and the Pukchang thermoelectric power station had not been in operation for more than 18 months, he said.

Drivers in Pyongyang cannot buy fuel three days a week, and every Saturday cars are barred from the roads. Electricity is turned off for two or three days a week district by district.

North Korea couldn't buy oil from the Soviet Union since the 1980s as the Soviets required payment in hard currency and China has asked the North to pay the full prices for its oil, aggravating the energy condition there, he said.

Political Committee Discusses Local Elections

SK1708081092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0702 GMT
17 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—The special Political Committee, formed in the National Assembly last week to find a breakthrough in the political stalemate, went into operation Monday with a discussion of the thorny issues of local elections, presidential election reforms and political funds. [passage omitted]

At its first session, the 18-member Political Committee elected Sin Sang-sik of the DLP its chairman and chose managers of three parties. They are Kim Chung-wi of the DLP, Pak Sang-chon of the DP, and Chong Chang-hyon of the Unification National Party [officially renamed United People's Party].

In a subsequent meeting, the party managers decided on procedural matters and subjects to be tackled by the committee.

Specifically, the committee decided to form three subcommittees to take up the local elections, problems related to the presidential election, and a bill revising the law governing political fundraising. The subcommittees will meet from Tuesday.

The Political Committee is to come up with resolutions on the timing of the local elections and reforms ensuring a clean and fair presidential election before the National Assembly convenes a regular session on Sept. 14.

The committee is expected to experience rough going with these issues, however, according to parliamentary sources.

As if to back up the speculation, ruling party executives met Monday and reaffirmed the DLP position that elections of provincial governors and large city mayors cannot be held this year. The local elections may be held, the nation's economic conditions permitting, but their timing will be decided by the next president of the country.

The DLP hopes to discuss the local election issue in the National Assembly based on a bill tabled by the government and the ruling party. But a confrontation is inevitable as the two opposition parties have said they will not discuss the bill.

Party managers on the special committee agreed to prohibit slander of presidential candidates in campaign literature.

In addition, they have to discuss measures to ban involvement of government officials in election campaigns and punishment for violators. They will also debate the voting age, with the ruling party insisting it remain at 20 and the DP and UNP calling for it to be set at 18 and 19 respectively.

At the DLP, meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman and presidential candidate, said his party would retain the people currently in the top three party posts—Kim Yong-ku as secretary-general, Hwang In-sung as chief policymaker, and Kim Yong-tae as floor leader.

The three party officials would stay in their posts until the presidential election, Kim said. [passage omitted]

DLP, DP Officials Leaving To Form Own Party

SK1708050592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—Rep. Yi Chong-chan of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and Rep. Han Yong-su of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] held separate press conferences Monday to announce that they will leave their parties. They indicated they will form their own party.

Han said that he and Yi, erstwhile candidate for the DLP's nomination for president, would meet with Rep. Chong Ho-yong, independent from Taegu, to discuss the possibility of forming a new party and the political direction they would take for the presidential election.

While disclosing his plans to meet with Yi and Chong, Han said he planned to form a preparatory committee for the new party and hold a party founders' convention before forming the party by early October at the latest.

The new party would nominate a presidential candidate to run against the "hegemonic politics" of Kim Yong-sam of the ruling party and Kim Tae-chung of the DP, he said.

Reps. O Yu-pang, Yu Ki-su and Yi Yong-il, and No Sung-hwan, a former vice speaker of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party, are expected to join the new party, along with Chong Ho-yong and some other independent lawmakers, informed sources said.

Meeting reporters, Yi Chong-chan said he had decided to leave the DLP in order to carry out political reforms. He said he hoped to put a stop to the old-style politicking, which encouraged and took advantage of regionalism. He said he hoped to usher in a new era of politics of unity and harmony under a new leader.

Commenting on the timing of his announcement, Yi said it was purely coincidental that Rep. Han was making his announcement on the same day. He said he had not discussed any future plans with Han. However, Yi was known to have met with Han in the recent past and discussed the possibility of forming a new party.

With regard to Chong Ho-yong, Yi acknowledged that he had met with the representative from Taegu but declined to say anything about the presidential election, scheduled for December.

Yi also dismissed speculation that his announcement had something to do with rumored plans by Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Business Group, to form a new party.

Chong Chu-yong Considers Merging With New Party

SK1808085592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0209 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, leader of the Unification National Party (UNP) [officially renamed United People's Party—UPP], said Tuesday he would not rule out the possibility of his party seeking to merge with the party being promoted by Reps. Yi Chong-chan, Chong Ho-yong and Han Yong-su.

Chong told a routine press conference that he could not "categorically" deny the possibility of uniting with the forces promoting the new party.

"As their will is identical with ours, a merger is sufficiently possible should they not try to grasp it all," he said.

He said his party was open to all forces desiring to reform the nation.

Asked whether he was ready to resign his party's presidential candidacy if the new party promoters made it a precondition for a merger, Chong bluntly ruled out the possibility, saying, "I don't cherish such a useless thought."

His remarks came a day after Rep. Yi Chong-chan of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and Rep. Han Yong-su of the opposition Democratic Party declared they would leave their parties to form a new party in their bid to bring an end to the era of "two Kims" politics.

Kim Yong-sam To Urge Clemency for Dissidents

SK1608041192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] Lenient measures are being studied for Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Ms. Yim Su-kyong, now in prison for their unauthorized visits to North Korea and Kim Hyong-chang, also imprisoned for arson at a United States Information Service facility.

Their release is likely to be contained in a declaration by Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], in early September designed to inject new air into state affairs.

The clemency step is to be taken to build a new image for Kim as the DLP presidential candidate. Kim is to take over the party presidency from President No Tae-u on Aug. 28.

According to a DLP official, Kim will take the measures by making a recommendation to No.

Kim is said to be preparing a package of policies, including the correction of the biased tapping of figures based on regionalism, the jacking up of the morbid stock market and the removal of irregularities in officialdom.

Kim is also expected to reshuffle the ruling party, reappointing erstwhile secretary general Kim Yun-hwan to his former post, replacing Kim Yong-ku who is reportedly to be tapped as floor leader.

Kim Yong-sam: No Reshuffle of DLP Leadership

SK1808034492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] will retain its three key post-holders until after the December presidential election, DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam said yesterday amid rumors that they will be changed soon.

The key office-holders are secretary general Kim Yong-ku, floor leader Kim Tong-tae and chief policy-maker Hwang In-song.

In a meeting with the press, executive chairman Kim said, "The three major officials were appointed after I was nominated the party's presidential candidate in the May 19 convention."

He added, "With the presidential election nearing, the key offices will not be reshuffled even if a shakeup is conducted affecting other party officials."

His remarks came amid reports that Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, a follower of Kim's and a former secretary general, will be reappointed to his erstwhile post among others.

Asked about the imminent appointment of ranking campaign managers, he refused to elaborate, but said, "I've already made a decision but I will not reveal it now."

Touching on the distribution of campaign pamphlets reviling the opposition presidential contenders, Kim apologized to the rival candidates.

He disclosed that he called up major opposition Democratic party leader Kim Tae-chung and apologized for the incident and promised to see to it that it will not recur.

Kim Yong-sam also tried to telephone Chong Chu-yong, president of the minor opposition United People's Party, but could not reach him.

He then instructed secretary general Kim to collect all the pamphlets from local chapters across the nation. He said the pamphlets were made without his knowledge.

With regard to the overseas journeys by National Assemblymen, which has come under fire, Kim directed the floor leader to restrict unessential overseas travel by DLP legislators.

Kim Yong-sam Denies 'Backstage Dealing'

SK1408150592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1118 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], Friday afternoon reiterated the ruling camp's decision not to hold local elections this year.

In a speech at a meeting of DLP local chapter chairmen held at the party's Karak-dong training center, Kim emphasized that no backstage dealing whatsoever was made with opposition leader Kim Tae-chung with respect to the time of local elections.

"I understand there were rumors that I and Kim Tae-chung reached a secret agreement on the local election issue during our recent meeting, but this is totally groundless," Kim said.

"There is no change in our policy that no local elections, whether they be pilot elections or elections in partial areas, could be held within this year."

Kim also said his party would form an election campaign committee by early next month to prepare for the presidential election toward the end of this year.

Parties Prepare for Presidential Election Campaign

SK1408133792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—With the official adjournment Friday of the National Assembly's extraordinary session, political parties shifted gears in their preparations for the presidential election campaign.

Leaving pending political issues to be resolved by a just-formed special Political Committee, lawmakers left for their constituencies to start campaigning for the presidential election.

Prior to their departure, representatives and heads of local chapters of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] gathered at its central education center in southeastern Seoul Friday morning to receive instructions on ways to promote the DLP candidate, Kim Yong-sam.

DLP legislators and chiefs of local chapters were told to publicize the justifiability of large national projects such as the high-speed rail line between Seoul and Pusan and a new international airport on Yongjong Island, near Incheon. They were also told to emphasize the inevitability of postponement of local elections.

Kim, meanwhile, appointed 13 members of the Election Planning and Coordinating Council, led by Secretary-general Kim Yong-ku. The council will now meet every day to formulate directives on election campaigns.

The DLP plans to form an election planning committee and election headquarters by the end of September,

linking the already formed Election Platform Committee, Election Publicity Committee and the Election Planning and Coordinating Council.

The ruling party will reshuffle top party posts when Kim Yong-sam is elected president of the party at a Central Standing Committee meeting on Aug. 28.

The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] held meetings of its chairmen and of its Central Executive Council Friday morning and decided to form an election planning council as early as next week.

After operating the council for about one month, the DP plans to form an election headquarters around Sept. 25 to begin the substantial election campaign for candidate Kim Tae-chung.

Co-president Yi Ki-taek will be chairman of the DP's Election Planning Committee, while either chairmen Kim Chong-kil or Yi Pu-yong will head the Election Planning Council. The DP will also form a special platform committee, which will consist of six subcommittees dealing with political, economic, social, educational, unification, security, youths, women and regional development issues.

The Unification National Party [officially renamed the United People's Party] will launch the election campaign for its president and candidate Chong Chu-yong after completing the organization of its local chapters.

Province To Name Envoy for Economic Affairs
SK1308021392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0124 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Chongju, South Korea, Aug. 13 (YONHAP)—The government of North Chungchong Province will appoint a temporary ambassador in October for economic, cultural and sports exchanges with foreign governments, officials said Thursday.

The ambassador, a former diplomat, will be on the staff of the Foreign Ministry.

His job will be to set up sisterhood ties with counterpart governments, arrange international events, educate the public about diplomacy and promote exchanges.

The province will formally request the Home Affairs Ministry this month to create the post.

The ambassador's rank will be equivalent to deputy governor and the province will provide him with free housing, an aide and pay his expenses.

The job is only for six months to one year, but may be extended.

Business Performance 'Turned Worse' in First Half
SK1508032492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—Overall business performances of South Korean enterprises turned worse in the first half of the year with the manufacturing industry stumbling most seriously, a private economic research institute reported Saturday.

The Dongsuh Economic Research Institute said that sales and net profits of 494 listed companies ending their financial year in December posted 18.7 percent and 5.5 percent increase, respectively, in the first half, off 7 percentage points and 3.1 percentage points from a year earlier.

Turnover and profits of the 494 companies were 89.27 trillion won and 1.85 trillion won.

Turnover of 363 manufacturing firms rose 12 percent to 44.17 trillion won from a year earlier, but their net profits registered a minus 14.7 percent growth compared with a 14.2 percent increase in the same six months of last year.

Suffering the most shortfall were food and beverage, paper, pharmaceutical, metal, machinery, transportation equipment, wholesale and retail, and storage companies.

The construction industry enjoyed a comfortable gain of 34.3 percent in turnover and 63.5 percent in net profits. Other gainers were nonferrous metal and prefabricated metal firms.

Turnover and profits of banks expanded 19.2 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively, to 5.19 trillion won and 335.2 billion won.

Samsung Co. topped the list with the greatest turnover of 5.7 trillion won and the Korea Electric Power Corp. had the biggest profit of 542.4 billion won.

As many as 30 firms turned from surplus to deficit and only a dozen turned in the opposition direction.

Burma

51 'Terrorist Insurgents' Surrender to Army

BK1708143292 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Terrorist insurgents from various terrorist insurgent organizations who have come to realize that their armed struggle and destructive activities do not benefit either themselves, the country, or the people have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering along with assorted arms and ammunition at various military camps.

It has been learned that 17 terrorist insurgents gave up their armed struggle and surrendered between 22 and 31 July 1992. Altogether, 51 terrorist insurgents surrendered in July 1992 and they were warmly welcomed by responsible personnel at various military camps.

Attack Against Karen Rebels Reportedly Planned

BK1808043692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Aug 92 p

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Burmese authorities have conscripted porters to carry weapons into Thai-Burmese border areas in preparation for an attack on Karen National Union camps.

The weapons are being taken close to Kawmoora camp opposite Mae Sot district and the Taybawboe and Valley camps opposite Phop Phra district, a field report said.

The porters are mainly women. Men fled to avoid conscription. Those able to pay the equivalent of 690920 baht were exempt.

Burmese authorities are expected to use the weapons to attack Karen camps along the border when the wet season ends in October.

Floods Affect 3,000 People, 800 Homes in Pegu

BK1808031092 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0200 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] The secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], Major General Tin U, together with the minister for agriculture, Maj. Gen. Myint Aung; the minister for trade and for planning and finance, Brigadier General Abel; the minister for livestock breeding and fisheries, Brig. Gen. Maung Maung; and responsible officials yesterday afternoon made an aerial inspection over inundated villages near Pegu River and flooded areas in Pegu caused by incessant heavy rains.

Later in Oktha Yeiktha [House] of No. 77 Light Infantry Division Headquarters, they were given reports by officials concerned on flood situation and measures for relief and resettlement which were discussed by the secretary-2, Maj. Gen. Tin U, and minister, Maj. Gen. Myint Aung.

The secretary-2 and party visited flood works of Kyauktwington and Kyaukkyizu where they witnessed the piling up of sandbags by Tatmadaw [Defense Services] members and the people and encouraged them. They also inspected Pegu Myole [Downtown] Bridge, Railways Bridge, Mazin Gange Ward, and Kyunthaya Ward which were overflowed and they made an aerial inspection of inundated places around Pegu.

The swelling Pegu River has risen due to incessant rains since Friday and the water level reached above the danger level of 910 centimeters to 944 centimeters at 2 pm yesterday.

As a result of rising waters, 888 houses of seven wards are flooded and 3,384 people of 808 households are now accommodated in 14 relief camps and relief measures are being taken.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Possible Effects of NAFTA on Asian Trade Viewed

BK1708133192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Aug 92 p 8

[Editorial: "A Case of Double Standards"]

[Text] US President George Bush did not want to divide the world into exclusive trade blocs. At least, that was the reason he gave for opposing the formation of the EAEC. Meanwhile, the US, Canada, and Mexico have agreed to form a single market, NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], which will be worth some six trillion dollars a year, covering 360 million people forming the largest trading bloc in the world, topping that of the common market being created by the 12 nations of the European Community.

But NAFTA will not divide the world. It is not trade protectionism. It is not meant to keep others out. It is not the harbinger of a world divided into economic spheres. Says America. The EAEC [East Asian Economic Caucus] as a consultative forum, on the other hand, threatens to split the globe.

But, pardon. Double standards are the prerogative of some. Unfortunately, domination is sometimes so ingrained that the US stance is taken sans question. While some US-dependent country might be excused for towing the line, there are others, notably Japan, which should be able to take pride in itself for its economic success, if nothing else, and demonstrate its maturity in being able to think and decide for herself. The region must stand firm on its own platform and place its faith in its decision-making mechanisms. We respect the US as a superpower, but a healthy relationship thrives on mutual respect. Domination might be one way of achieving acquiescence but does not America pride itself on its democratic traditions?

There is much ado about the individual's freedom of thought and freedom of choice. East Asian countries should, therefore, be able to decide by themselves the future of their own region without meddling from Uncle Sam.

Subordination and subjugation by the West, whether wittingly or unwittingly, has been so deeply ingrained in the rest of the world that it permeates every facet of life. We refer to ourselves as the Third World because the West says so. The world calls it the Cold War because the West calls it that.

We aspire for developed-nation status by sending our scientists overseas. We subscribe to the education system of the West forgetting that some of the best students come from this part of the world. We emulate Western lifestyles although family values and institutions are the bastions of Asian culture. It is time the region looks inward within itself to lead its own life without having to keep kowtowing to the West.

This region has the potential for reaching even better heights without the encumbrance of always having to look out for US sensitivities. The Asian region contains some of the fastest-growing economies, with the East Asian economies accounting for about 20 percent of total world trade. It has the resources and the population. It only needs the political will to awaken the Asian tiger.

The US-generated domino theory has proven to be wrong. There used to be a popular belief that if the US catches a cold, we will develop pneumonia. Although still reliant on the US as a major trading partner, this is no longer true, as illustrated by the fact that economies in this region are still thriving despite the recession ailing the US.

NAFTA will create a mega-market which will undoubtedly affect this part of the world no matter what the US says to the contrary. It should lend impetus to the fact that the region needs to take its own protectionist stand before it gets locked out from the rest of the world.

Mahathir 'Happy' With Japan, Taiwan Cooperation
BK1808075892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0608 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Tuesday that he is happy with Malaysia's economic co-operation with Taiwan and Japan though there has been a marked decrease in investment from the two industrial economies.

"The decrease in investment is because of their own economic problems and has nothing to do with our economic co-operation with Japan and Taiwan," he told reporters here.

"I am satisfied with the economic co-operation which Malaysia has with Japan and Taiwan," he said.

The decrease in the rate of investment from Taiwan to Malaysia was because of attractive investment offers from China, Dr. Mahathir said.

He denied claims that Taiwan investors were no longer interested in investing in Malaysia because investment conditions were frequently changed and were not consistent.

Such claims did not reflect the general opinion but only that of individuals, he said.

"In Japan too there is similar opinion opposed to Malaysia's investment conditions, but that is the opinion of individuals and we are not concerned over such opinion," he said.

On aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Mahathir said Muslim countries should give aid to those who were in need.

Asked to comment on reports that Serbia's atrocities against Bosnian Muslims were being directed by European countries to destroy the rise of Islam in Europe, the prime minister said: "I only know about this matter through newspapers and I am not sure whether they are true or not."

Embassy Officials Return Safely From Belgrade
BK1708141492 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia
Network in English 1330 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] The second and final batch of Malaysian diplomatic officials returned from Belgrade today marking the end of the 25-year era of Malaysia-Yugoslavia relations. The Malaysian charge d'affaires, (Tan Tai Su), arrived with his wife and son and three other officials on a Malaysia Airlines flight from Vienna. The first batch of eight officials and family members returned last night also from the Austrian capital.

Malaysia severed diplomatic ties with the rump Yugoslavia last week making it the first country to do so in protest against Serbian atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Encik [Mr.] (Tan) said he did not encounter any danger or difficulties during their 14-hour journey on land with the other officials and family members from Belgrade to Vienna on Wednesday [12 August]. He denied newspaper reports that some Malaysian students are stranded in Bosnia but said a woman from Penang who is married to a Bosnian was stranded in Bosnia because of the war. She has been listed under the evacuation list for foreigners stranded in Bosnia.

Singapore

Paper Views 'Threat' to Asia from NAFTA
BK1708142992 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 17 Aug 92 p 26

[Editorial: "The Threat From NAFTA"]

[Text] Asia is right to be worried. Orwell complained that under communism, all men are equal—but some are more equal than others. In what may become the capitalist version of that classic line, the United States, Canada, and Mexico have decided to form a free-trade area that may relegate other free-trading partisans to less-than-equal status. Last week, the three countries concluded a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a gigantic experiment in American regionalism which will create a US\$6 trillion, unified market of 360 million consumers from the Yukon to the Yucatan. In principle, free-trade zones stimulate trade, but in practice, the devil lies in the details of the policies determining the contours of the free-trade area. It is not impossible that, as with communism, the realities may turn out to be very different from the proclamations. The communist metaphor may be far-fetched, though Asians cannot help but notice something. Common markets and free-trade areas have taken on a peculiar momentum perhaps not unrelated to the demise of international communism. At one time, free trade—international, that is—was necessary to defend the free world's borders against communist encroachment. Today, parts of the free world must find ways of staying free economically in the face of regional free trade exercises such as the European Community and, now, NAFTA.

The fear is not over competition. If the US is rejuvenated by NAFTA, all the better for the economies that export to it. If Mexico graduates to the first world because of the pact, that is cause for celebration, not despondency, in Asia. Trade need not be a zero-sum game; everyone can win through greater competition. The point has to do with the terms of that competition. Will non-tariff barriers and preferential schemes integrate North America more closely at the expense of other regions' access to it, especially in the fields of agriculture, textiles, and garments? What will more stringent local-content rules in North America do to Japanese carmakers? Will NAFTA, even as it creates more trade within North America, divert trade away from efficient suppliers outside the region towards relatively inefficient suppliers inside it? Another area of concern for Asia is the possible diversion of investment. According to one study, 5 to 10 per cent of the US investment flows into ASEAN, which totalled about US\$4 billion last year, could be diverted. Not just American and European, but also Japanese, firms may want to set up plants in Mexico, whose proximity to the US and Canada could result in savings in shipping costs and other advantages.

What can be done? Obviously, as NAFTA is realised over the next 15 years—after being ratified by the legislatures of the three countries—the details need to be studied closely to see what the total picture means. In some of the more pessimistic analyses of its consequences for the participating countries, observers note that the results for even the US might not be large enough to allow it to turn away from the rest of the world. For example, the agreement may create 175,000 jobs in the country in five years. The point is not so

much that these will be the result of subtracting 150,000 lost jobs from the 325,000 new jobs created: More relevant is that even a weak economy created 1,000 American jobs in the last month alone. Indeed, some economists even think that the pact will cause a net loss of American jobs. Instead of giving a boost to Mexico's economy, it will drag America's economy down. However, Asia's salvation does not lie in hoping that NAFTA will fail. Instead, it must continue to do what it has done: Make its own economies even more competitive. It must also do something it has not done well till now: Move towards genuine regional integration through schemes such as the ASEAN Free Trade Area agreement. In an uncertain world, one's own strength matters more than ever.

Goh Links Higher Living Standards, Productivity

*BK1708140592 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 17 Aug 92 p 1*

[By Sumiko Tan]

[Text] The Prime Minister told Singaporeans last night that the going will get tougher because they are now competing in the super league of developed nations.

But the future will be bright if Singaporeans work together to stay competitive, steer clear of welfare policies, and do not get distracted by domestic issues.

And if the country succeeds, the people's assets will be increased and anyone who has completed 10-12 years of education will be assured of being "middle class and asset owning".

This, in a nutshell, was Mr. Goh Chok Tong's message at his second National Day rally at Kallang Theatre.

Dressed in a patterned, long-sleeved russet shirt and beige pants, he looked relaxed as he addressed his 1,700 audience, including Cabinet colleagues, businessmen and unionists, as well as thousands of Singaporeans at home.

Speaking in Malay, Chinese and then English, he used charts to illustrate his arguments and peppered his 2 hour 15 minute speech with anecdotes, which were received with applause by the audience.

The main thrust of his speech was that Singaporeans had to "keep their eyes on the big picture" and solve the country's basic problem—staying competitive.

The country, he noted, was losing its status as a newly industrialising economy (NIE) and was now entering the race to be in "First Division-Advanced Status."

"It is not costs of COEs [expansion unknown] and hospital charges that will knock us off course. They can be substantially solved provided we keep competitive and continue economic growth," he said.

He pointed out that notwithstanding reports about Singapore's workforce being one of the world's best, the productivity of workers lagged behind those of developed countries.

"We have got to compare ourselves from now on with developed countries, not with developing countries, because we are going to compete in the developed country league, no more in the NIE league," he said.

He also gave this sobering update: for Vision 1999 to be on target, Singapore's economy had to grow by 7 per cent a year.

But at the expected rate of 5 per cent growth, Vision 1999 would be achieved only in 2003, four years behind schedule, and "even then, there is no guarantee that we can achieve it."

Mr Goh also devoted a substantial part of his speech to explaining how welfarism would spell the beginning of the end for Singapore's competitiveness.

New Zealand, he pointed out, was the world's fifth richest country in 1966. It now stood at 19th—one rank below Singapore—because of welfare programmes which eroded the country's competitive edge.

To be competitive, it was crucial that Singapore did not let up on its drive to increase workers' productivity.

And he produced data to show how much it lagged behind the developed countries in many sectors—by as much as 53 years behind Japan in construction, assuming present productivity growth rates.

It was thus important to education, he said, as he released charts revealing the country's top schools.

"We must value the efforts and achievements of every pupil, whatever his aptitudes and abilities, provided he has done the best that he is capable of," he said.

"But we must never blur real differences in performance of pupils, or pretend that all have done equally well and none ever fail to master the subjects."

Turning to the importance of taking a long-term view of Singapore's future, Mr Goh urged Singaporeans not to get distracted by short-term domestic problems such as the perception of rising costs.

He produced figures to challenge concerns about the increasing cost of living, and announced the setting up of a Cost Review Committee to study the question of rising costs.

Two other issues, he noted, were bogging Singaporeans down and preventing them from focusing on the bigger issue of being competitive—rising health and COE costs.

Acknowledging that these were real issues on the ground, he announced that a ministerial committee on health costs would make a report to Cabinet in a few months' time, and a Green Paper would be published later.

On COEs, the Ministry of Communications would fine tune the quota system to help more Singaporeans own cars. It also has plans for a \$4-billion new city tunnel system.

He also mentioned one other problem which he said must not fluster Singaporeans, and that was Singapore-Malaysia ties.

But he noted that the two countries were able to see their problems against the larger perspective of long-term cooperation and benefits for both sides.

He ended his speech with this rallying call: "Remember. We are Singaporeans. We have come this far on nothing and we will go much further when we pull together.

"So keep your sights on what is before us. Put in your best to stay ahead. Together, we shall become a developed country, a City of Excellence, a Society of Distinction."

Cambodia

Prince Chakkrapong Criticizes FUNCINPEC

*BK1508122192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
14 Aug 92*

[Interview with Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, by unidentified station correspondent on 14 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] My respects to His Royal Highness. I am very glad to have been granted this interview on a number of important issues. What is your opinion on the Cambodian People's Party's [CPP] extraordinary national congress solemnly held on 28 and 29 July and your election by the congress to be a member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee?

[Chakkrapong] I thank you for this interview. I am happy to answer your question, which looks at the present and future importance of the CPP. The extraordinary 28-29 [July] congress is important for the CPP because it shows our people that the CPP is always siding with them and meeting their wishes and that of the nation. The CPP is always with the people and will continue carry out its mission for their interests. Also, the congress was held to streamline our present policy to better serve the interests of the people everywhere, both politically and organizationally. Moreover, due to the demand by [word indistinct] that each political party's logo be changed and the use of the temple's [Angkor Wat] emblem be banned, we had to seek authorization from our party members to change our's. We have not been allowed to do what we want. So, we followed the democratic process in selecting another emblem, and the party congress decided to adopt the dove, which represents peace for our Cambodian people. Our CPP wants peace, national reconstruction, and reunification.

I am very honored to have been elected by congress members to be a member of the CPP Central Committee and then member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee. The growing number of the party members, including youths, workers, farmers, businessmen, shows that people across the country believe in the CPP. The party will increase in size and its committee has to expand according to the number of its members. This policy shows that the CPP, as I always claim, is disinterested [words indistinct]. There are, however, also factions within some political parties. I was elected because I am nonpartisan. This shows that the CPP represents a unique family and that there are no factions within the party. The CPP considers the value of work as an important factor; this is why its Central Committee members elected me as a member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee. This shows the CPP is the only party with this unique make-up, where all members are brothers. There are no factions within the party. This is why I joined the CPP as a permanent member to show my confidence in its leadership. If I were disliked by its members, I could not have become a member—I am also trusted in diplomatic circles. I am very happy and proud of this trust. I am even entrusted by our National Assembly with the task as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Since the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party have been previously allied with the CPP, some people said I, a FUNCINPEC member, served the government which is not a part of FUNCINPEC. Later, people were surprised that I became a CPP Central Committee member, and then member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee. People have misunderstood this. But, to me, it is very clear. I am no longer a FUNCINPEC member. I quit the party when the prince head of state was named the father of the nation with a mission to reconcile all Cambodians. The prince now represents harmony of the people in general. He has neither party nor faction. He is the father of the entire people.

[Correspondent] Lately, a political party and its members have used orders you signed in February 1990 to launch the Movement of Cambodian Souls. Would you please account for this.

[Chakkrapong] The orders were signed in February 1990, nearly two years before the signing of the 23 October 1991 accord. As you already know, I was a FUNCINPEC member and a commander of Sihanoukist army. I was the second man in the army, or chief of the General Staff and commander in chief. I was also the chairman of the Cambodian Souls Movement—the task of the movement was to launch a campaign [words indistinct]. I am very sorry to learn that the party have abused those orders. The orders should not have used to deceive the people. As a political party, it should be responsible to the people. If that party is not responsible and continues to use other people's name, what does it say about the future of this country. This means the party

is not stable yet. If it were, it should be responsible and not use the name of other people. I would like to thank the party for honoring me, but honor is not like that. It is important for the party to be honest to the nation, the people, and the future of the country. As it has already deceived the people, what will our become of our future if it controls the National Assembly or its members become members of parliament. If it wins, what will it become since it has already begun to lie to the people from the start. I am extremely sorry to see it act like this. If it has a genuine political stance, it should be responsible for its political aims. I think I know that party. I always believe each political party should know the number of its members. It should also be well organized. Since I left it to join the CPP, that nonstructural party has been deprived of a propaganda network. As such, it is using my alliance with the CPP to serve its propaganda, saying voting for the party is the same as voting for me, because I am a younger brother or a relative. This is a deception. Its structure has collapsed completely since I left [that party].

UNTAC Begins Registration of Political Parties

BK1808072592 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT
18 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 August (SPK)—The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Monday, 17 August, it was beginning provisional registration of political parties that will compete in elections scheduled for May 1993.

So far, most of the parties that have expressed interest are not yet recognized as factional groups under the peace accords ending the civil war, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said, according to AFP.

Parties of any size can register provisionally, but they must have 5,000 registered voters signed on by the official voter registration period later this year in order to participate in elections. All parties must present details of their bank accounts, sources of income, their campaign symbol and a sworn statement saying they will accept the outcome of the U.N.-run elections.

It was not immediately clear if provisional registration was necessary in order to compete in the elections.

The radical Khmer Rouge faction has given indications it will not participate in the elections—just as it refuses to lay down its weapons—until all its demands are met—namely, a stronger Supreme National Council (SNC), which is the reconciliation body grouping the four factions under U.N. control; the dismantlement of the Phnom Penh government; and the removal of Vietnamese settlers from Cambodia.

Further on Registration

BK1808044392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Aug 92 p 9

[Text] Cambodia yesterday took its first step toward a general election when the United Nations Transitional

Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) began "provisional registration" of political parties hoping to join the contest.

The registration will enable parties to open offices throughout the country while "official registration"—to come at a later, yet-to-be-specified date—will establish their eligibility to participate in the elections, said UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt.

As part of the provisional registration, parties are required to furnish a statement confirming they will accept the results of the elections and abide by the Code of Conduct, he said in a telephone interview from Phnom Penh.

The Paris Peace Agreement of October 1991 mandates UNTAC to organize free and fair elections in Cambodia and to certify them as such thereafter.

The elections are expected to take place by May 1993 at the latest, after the repatriation is completed of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians encamped in Thailand throughout the 13-year civil war.

Mr Falt said "several smaller parties" had expressed the greatest interest in provisional registration rather than the four main parties now in the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The SNC is made up of the Khmer Rouge, the Phnom Penh regime and two nationalist groups loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the son of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The move towards the final stage of the peace process was announced after the United Nations Electoral Law on Cambodia was signed last Friday by the head of UNTAC Yasushi Akashi, who is also the Special Representative in Cambodia of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

The signing followed approval of the document by Mr Butrus-Ghali, Mr Falt said.

The Electoral Law notably prohibits political parties from carrying as part of their campaign any "symbol" portraying Prince Sihanouk or Angkor Wat, the country's revered temple.

The law has been received with strong reservations by the Khmer Rouge who, according to a well-informed source, claim it was adopted by a ruling from Mr Akashi and without consensus at the last SNC meeting in Siem Reap.

The draft law was first presented for consultation with the SNC on April 1, officials said.

The guerrillas have indicated that an assurance of a neutral political environment would be decisive to their participation in the election.

They object to the clause on voter eligibility, arguing that it would open the door to the return to power of a regime similar to that installed by Vietnam in 1979, and bolstered by it throughout the civil war.

The Electoral Law provides for any Cambodian aged 18 years and above to be given the right to vote. It defines a Cambodian as a person born in Cambodia with one parent born in the country—or a person born outside Cambodia with one parent and one grandparent born in the country.

The source said the Khmer Rouge wanted the law to specify that the right to vote be given to Cambodian citizens over the age of 18 with one parent enjoying Cambodian citizenship before January 1979.

The Khmer Rouge were ousted from power on January 7, 1979 after Vietnam's military intervention two weeks earlier ended their violent attempt to set up a new society.

For provisional registration, each political party is required to provide the following details:

- The names and addresses of party officials;
- The party statute;
- Bank accounts, sources of income, including contributions from any source;

- The party's symbol; and
- A statement that the party will accept the results of the elections and abide by the Code of Conduct.

"Once they have given all this information, they will be able to set up offices throughout Cambodia," Mr Falt said.

The UNTAC spokesman said no date had been set for the end of the period of provisional registration.

He said the next steps would be voter registration and the official registration of parties.

The Paris agreement provides for any group of five thousand voters to form a political party.

The Electoral Law requires voter registration to take place in Cambodia.

But it allows for polling stations to be set up in Europe, North America and Australia so registered voters living overseas can join in the self-determination process.

Khmer Rouge Fire Shells in Kompong Thom 6-9 Aug *BK1508090692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0422 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[Text] Phnom Penh 15 Aug (SPK)—From 6 to 9 August, the Khmer Rouge fired a total of 121 shells on some positions of the government armed forces in Kompong Thom Province north of Phnom Penh, according to sources at the Commission for Military Coordination with the United Nations, who reported specifically that:

On 6 August, the Khmer Rouge fired 26 H-107 rockets on the headquarters of the 16th regiment of the Cambodian People's Army in Rumchek.

On 7 August, the Khmer Rouge fired two H-107 rockets on Bos Veng village and two others on Lpeak Thmei village.

On 8 August, they fired 55 H-1-7 rockets and DK-85 shells on a sector marked W.V. 52.01.

On 9 August, the western part of Roluos township was hit by three projectiles of the same calibre. On the same day at 2000 (local time), the Khmer Rouge from Division 616 pounded Phnum Daek and O Pou with 33 H-107 rockets and DK-75 shells.

Violations From 1-12 Aug Reported

*BK1708120092 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1059 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 17—During the second week of this month, Khmer Rouge launched military attacks on several areas in Preah Vihear and Kompong Thom Provinces, according to reports of the Military Coordination Commission with the United Nations.

On August 1-10 Khmer Rouge troops of Division 616 fired eight H-107 rockets into the downtown of Kulen District.

On August 10, the Khmer Rouge made hit-and-run attack on soldiers of the State of Cambodia in Svay Rieng village, Stoung District, Kompong Thom, the reports said.

On the same day, more than 200 shells of mortar (?and rocket) fired by the Khmer Rouge hit a rubber plantation and Tonle Mrich, in the same province.

According to the reports, during the period Khmer Rouge soldiers of Division 616 [words indistinct] stationing at Trapeang Preah on Road 12, and pounded Chi Ok with 30 rounds of 75-mm recoilless guns and Andas Thmei with 15 rounds.

On August 12, a stronghold of the State of Cambodia's armed forces at O Poa was bombarded by 50 rockets of H-107.

Vietnamese Officers Reportedly Hide in Phnom Penh

*BK1608015292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great
National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian
2330 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[From the "Brief News" feature]

[Text] Reports from Phnom Penh say that people living in the Vat Svay Dangkum monastery, west of the Monorom Hotel, in Phnom Penh have openly and secretly talked about a Vietnamese colonel and a major disguising themselves as civilians selling goods west of Svay Dangkum monastery. These two Vietnamese soldiers can speak Cambodian with an accent. They pretend to sell goods during the daytime, but they disappear at night.

The reports also say that there are dozens of Vietnamese families staying in Vat Svay Dangkum monastery. The puppets dare not evict these male and female Vietnamese residents from the monastery. People in Vat Svay Dangkum keep saying that there are dozens of Vietnamese elements in the Vat Svay Dangkum area;

why does UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] keep saying that there are no Vietnamese? Why does UNTAC not control this? If UNTAC wants to control Vietnamese aggressor forces, UNTAC should cooperate with the Supreme National Council [SNC]; the people will dare to point the finger straight at Vietnamese aggressor leaders for UNTAC and the SNC everywhere.

The people say that UNTAC does not let the SNC have a role because UNTAC is afraid that the people will use SNC backing and unmask Vietnamese aggressor forces.

Causes for Massacre of Vietnamese Reviewed

*BK1708032392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great
National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian
2330 GMT 16 Aug 92*

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Have Some Elements Kept Calling for Investigation Into the Case in Which Cambodian People and Soldiers Killed Eight Vietnamese Aggressors in Kampot Province and Why Have They Not Uttered a Word About the Killing, Wounding, and Maiming of Tens of Thousands and Even Millions of Cambodian People in the Past 14 Years?"]

[Text] On 21 July 1992, Cambodian people and soldiers in Kampot Province killed eight Vietnamese immigrants in Tuk Meas village, Tuk Meas District, Kampot Province. The causes of this killing are:

1. The anger of the Cambodian people and soldiers who have been forced to serve the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressors has kept burning for the past 14 years.
2. These Vietnamese immigrants have robbed the Cambodian people of their land, forest, houses, and property.
3. The Yuon aggressors have continued to forcibly recruit people's children to fight and die on their behalf.
4. Another case which has enraged the Cambodian people and soldiers even more and affected the daily living of the Cambodian people and soldiers is the fact that the Yuon aggressors and their puppets—the traitors—have sent forces to suppress and force the people to use the puppet regime's rejected riel banknotes.

There are also many other causes.

Some elements have kept making loud noises over this event in which Cambodian people and soldiers killed eight Vietnamese nationals. They have accused the others of being responsible for this event.

Politicians, ordinary people, and Cambodian people from all social circles know well that these clamors by Yuon aggressors and their allies accusing the others of being responsible for the event in which Cambodian people and soldiers killed eight Vietnamese nationals in Tuk Meas village are aimed at maintaining all categories of Yuan aggressor forces in Cambodia. But, the Yuon aggressors and their puppets have not uttered a word

about the fact that they have killed millions of Cambodians in the past 14 years and are still carrying on this crime through all kinds of fascist acts, including the use of chemical weapons.

The above event clearly shows that the Cambodian nation and people will not allow the Yuon aggressors and their allies to do anything at will. So long as all categories of Yuon aggressor forces are still in Cambodia, the Cambodian people and Cambodian national resistance forces will carry on all kinds of activities to make the Yuon aggressors and their allies implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement correctly in line with its real essence, particularly the following most important points:

1. The Yuon aggressors must withdraw all categories of their forces from Cambodia under the supervision of the UN Transitional Authority and the four Cambodian factions.
2. The Supreme National Council must be allowed to enjoy the full right and role as the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period.

Khmer Rouge Hails Xu Dunxin-Asa Sarasin Talks

BK1508094592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The Cambodian People Are Happy and Welcome the Statements of Xu Dunxin and Asa Sarasin at the 4 August 1992 Meeting"]

[Text] On 4 August, Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin and Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin met to discuss the impasse in the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

At the meeting, Xu Dunxin and Asa Sarasin agreed on the following:

1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] should be the sole source of authority in Cambodia during the transitional period.
2. His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk should assume the role and function as genuine SNC chairman.
3. The two personalities said the proposal suggesting that UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and SNC supervise the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia is correct and reasonable and in accordance with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, as it will bring about a neutral political atmosphere during the election.
4. China and Thailand have also agreed that a solution to the Cambodian problem should accord with the essence of the 23 October 1992 Paris agreement.

The Cambodian people in rural areas and cities are happy. They welcome and support the statements by Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin and Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, which are full of goodwill toward the Cambodian people.

The Cambodian nation and people have determined that the statements stemmed from the national reconciliation ideal of wanting Cambodia to have peace with national independence through the genuine implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. Their statements defend peace and stability in the region and are also a check on the Indochinese federation strategy of Vietnam and its accomplices. These remarks are a blow to those who rely on brute force and power, who alter the interpretation of the Paris agreement, and force others to implement a separate agreement made up by them.

Belgian State Minister Arrives for Visit 14 Aug

BK1608123492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 16—A delegation of Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs led by Jean Gol, state minister and president of the Liberal Reformist Party arrived here Friday [14 August] for a four-day visit to strengthen bilateral relations and to have a closer look into the implementation of the Paris peace agreement in Cambodia.

During the visit, ending on August 17, the delegation is scheduled to have an audience with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), and hold talks with foreign minister of the State of Cambodia Hor Namhong, who is also a member of the SNC.

Belgium has established diplomatic ties with Cambodia and appointed its ambassador to the SNC on December 12 last year. It has also sent peacekeepers to join forces of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Meets Prince Sihanouk 16 Aug

BK1708120692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1103 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 17—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), received here Sunday a visiting delegation of Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs led by its State Minister Jean Gol, president of the Liberal Reformist Party.

Speaking to his guests, the prince brought out the recent development in the implementation of the Cambodia peace plan. He stressed that the reconstruction of Cambodia was necessary though it was opposed by the Khmer Rouge action at the international conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia recently held in Tokyo, Japan.

Jean Gol arrived here on August 15 for a four-day official visit to strengthen bilateral relations and to have a close look at the implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia.

Belgium Provides Loan for New Aerial Survey

*BK1508115492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
15 Aug 92 p 6*

[Text] Belgium has provided the Interim Mekong Project with US\$455,000 for an aerial survey programme in Cambodia. The agreement was signed by Belgian Ambassador Pierre de Muelenaere and Mme Do Hong Phan, assistant executive agent and officer-in-charge of the committee's secretariat. The aerial survey of 182,000 square kilometres of Cambodia began in February. It is aimed at supporting peace-keeping and reconstruction as well as resettlement of refugees.

The photographic data will aid demining operations, preparations for the general election and the resettlement of about 370,000 Cambodian refugees repatriated from Thailand.

According to the Foreign Ministry, about 58,000 Cambodians have been repatriated so far, leaving 310,000 Khmers in camps along the border. Repatriation is to be completed before the UN-supervised election expected to be held by May at the latest.

The total cost of the survey is estimated at \$1.25 million, with about \$475,000 contributed by the European Community and about \$333,000 by Finland. The IMC, comprising Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, last year directed the Bangkok-based secretariat to prepare the way for IMC involvement in Cambodian development.

The proposal was approved by Cambodia's Supreme National Council at a meeting with the IMC in November.

Indonesia

MP Sees NAFTA 'Opportunities', Not 'Threat'

*BK1808030092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 18 Aug 92*

[Text] Albertson Marlis Sihanoho, vice chairman of parliament's budgetary affairs commission, believes that the North American Free Trade Area, NAFTA, is not a threat to Indonesia, but instead provides export opportunities for Indonesia's commodity goods to the three NAFTA member countries. Commenting on the formation of NAFTA, which comprises the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the member of parliament from the Indonesian Democratic Party said NAFTA will actually allow Indonesia's commodity goods to enter the United States through Canada and Mexico or vice versa. But he also noted that the three-member NAFTA will provide facilities, including tariff cuts, only among its own member countries.

Ulemas Urge Government 'Firm Stand' on Bosnia

*BK1408131492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 14 Aug 92*

[Text] The Indonesian Ulemas Council [MUI] has called on the government to adopt a firm stand toward Serbia's military aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has devastated the city of Sarajevo and victimized thousands of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Replying to questions by reporters in Jakarta this evening, MUI General Chairman K.H. Hasan Basri called on Indonesian Muslims to help alleviate the burden of the chaos-stricken residents there. Hasan Basri said that any donations should be directly handed over to the Indonesian Red Cross Society through which they would be channelled to those in need of help in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Laos

Vietnam's Do Muoi, Delegation Continue Visit

Call on LPRP Advisers 14 Aug

*BK1508092792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[Text] On the afternoon of 14 August, Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and a high-level party and state delegation of the SRV, called on advisers of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, namely Souphanouvong, Phoumi Vongvichit, and Sisomphon Lovansai, at their respective residences in Vientiane. On this occasion, the advisers to the LPRP Central Committee warmly welcomed the high-level SRV party and state delegation's official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. They also thanked General Secretary Do Muoi and his delegation for their calls. They said the visit has contributed to promoting and expanding the great friendship, special solidarity, and all-around cooperation between Laos and Vietnam in the new revolutionary stage.

General Secretary Do Muoi, in return, expressed great satisfaction over his opportunity to meet and chat with senior Lao leaders who have in the past shared weal and woe and fought shoulder to shoulder in the national salvation struggle against the imperialist aggressors.

Later, General Secretary Do Muoi and the delegation visited the Vietnamese Embassy in Laos where he met and chatted with cadres, workers, and overseas Vietnamese who have worked and resided in Laos.

General Secretary Do Muoi and the delegation, accompanied by Khamphoui Keoboulapha, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee, who is also deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance returned to Vientiane at 1100 on the same day after visiting the central and southern provinces, namely Savannakhet, Champassak, and Saravane on 13 August. During that visit, General Secretary Do

Muoi and delegation were warmly welcomed by the provincial party and administrative committees and the local multiethnic Lao people. General Secretary Do Muoi and his delegation also met and talked, in an atmosphere of close friendship, with members of the party and administrative committees of the three provinces.

15 Aug Activities Reported

BK1608034392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] On 15 August, the fifth day of the visit to Laos, Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, and his delegation, accompanied by Khamphoui Keoboulapha, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of economy, planning, and finance, visited the Nam Ngeum hydropower dam at Thalat in Keo Oudom District, Vientiane Province. Do Muoi and his delegation were warmly welcomed by Soulivong Dalavong, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of industry and handicrafts, and Siphon Phalikhan, member of the Party Central Committee and governor of Vientiane Province, together with cadres and workers of the Nam Ngeum hydropower dam.

Do Muoi and the delegation were led to see the machinery systems of various sections of the hydropower dam, which is composed of five generators capable of producing 150 megawatts of electricity per day. In addition to serving domestic consumption requirements, this hydropower dam has produced electricity for sale to foreign countries. At noon, Siphon Phalikhan, governor of Vientiane Province, organized a luncheon at a tourist boat in honor of Do Muoi and his delegation. The boat travelled around the reservoir of the dam so that the delegation could view the landscape of the reservoir which is considered a main tourist place and a main fishing rearing source of Vientiane Province.

Later, at 1530 of the same day, Do Muoi received a courtesy call from committee members of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association at his residence. At 1600, Do Muoi and the delegation visited a textile factory of the women's union at Khounta village in Sikhottabong District, Vientiane municipality.

Vientiane Rally Welcomes Delegation

BK1608075092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] At 1000 today, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] held a grand rally in the main hall of the LPRP Central Committee in Vientiane to salute and welcome the high-level delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and state of the SRV led by Do Muoi, general secretary

of the CPV Central Committee. The delegation is currently on an official friendship visit to Laos at the invitation of Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and president of the LPDR. The rally was attended by party and state leaders, namely Chairman Kaysone Phomvihane, Nouhak Phoumsavan, Khamtai Siphandon, Phoun Sipaseut, Khamphoui Keoboulapha, and Oudom Khatthi-gna. Also attending were members of the LPRP Central Committee, ministers, deputy ministers, and members of the National Assembly, along with a large crowd of high-ranking cadres of the military, police, and civilian services.

Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly, delivered an opening speech on behalf of the rally presidium. Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee and secretary of the party Committee of Vientiane municipality, was then invited to deliver a speech.

Oudom Khatthi-gna Speaks at Rally

BK1708061392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Speech by Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and secretary of the party Committee of Vientiane Municipality, delivered at a rally to welcome the SRV party and state delegation led by Do Muoi held at the main hall of the Office of the party Central Committee in Vientiane on 16 August—recorded]

[Text] Today, Vientiane residents have the high honor to represent the multiethnic Lao people throughout the country to hold this grand rally to salute and welcome the official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] of the high-level delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the state of the SRV led by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi. We would like to sincerely thank Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and comrade members of the delegation for bringing to our Lao people the profound friendship, special solidarity, and great encouragement from the heroic Vietnamese people. [applause]

The Vientiane residents have for a long time been acquainted with the name of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi [applause] as a stalwart revolutionary who has joined with comrade Political Bureau members and members of the CPV Central Committee in leading the fraternal Vietnamese people to win one victory after another in carrying out their revolutionary cause, in particular the glorious achievements recorded in carrying out the restructuring work in all respects and in a principled manner over the recent years. On this glorious occasion, we wish to wholeheartedly salute and welcome Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and comrades members of the delegation as close and trustworthy comrades and friends of the Lao party and people. [applause]

Beloved comrades and friends, the two nations of Laos and Vietnam have maintained love and friendship, mutual support and assistance, and traditions of united struggle which have passed the trials throughout the past decades. The peoples of the two countries have always closely followed each other's revolutionary steps. The Lao people are deeply pleased and very proud to see that the resolutions of the Seventh CPV congress have been effectively translated into reality and that major achievements have been recorded in many fields by the entire party, army, and people of Vietnam in comprehensively carrying out the renovation cause in a solid unity and a great endeavor. The domestic situation has changed in a favorable way; the political tranquillity has been securely maintained; new steps of development have been achieved; the national defense and public security have been guaranteed; and foreign activities have been broadened.

The Vietnamese people have promoted and expanded their traditions of industriousness, perseverance, and initiative in engaging in labor, particularly in the agricultural field. A big stride has been achieved in the production of food grains due to the party's correct policy. In this field, Vietnam has not only sufficiently served the requirements in food grains in the country, but also served as one among major rice exporting countries in the world. New steps of development have also been achieved in the industrial production. Following the improvement of the management mechanism and the use of new technologies, industrial production in the country has been expanded under many forms and with a better quality. The problem of prices has also been settled step by step while inflation has been limited. In other fields, following the implementation of the correct foreign policy and the positive activities, the status and roles of Vietnam have been consolidated and raised to an ever higher level both in this region and the rest of the world. The economic relations with foreign countries have been increasingly broadened under many different forms. Though Vietnam is still blockaded, foreign investments in Vietnam at present are worth more than U.S. \$3 billion.

The noteworthy political event was the successful election of the Ninth National Assembly. The event has clearly proved the implementation of the people's genuine rights of being owners of the country. It has also shown that the people's democratic rights have been promoted and expanded at a high level. What we are specially satisfied with is that the CPV—the party which was founded, trained, and tempered by great President Ho Chi Minh—has increasingly promoted and expanded its glorious traditions. The party has shown its courage and initiative in restructuring itself by firmly adhering to revolutionary ideals and objectives. It has widely led the entire Vietnamese people to consistently march forward along the path that they have chosen.

The aforesaid great achievements in many fields have clearly proved that the restructuring direction adopted by the CPV is appropriate and that the Vietnamese

people have maintained a profound patriotic spirit and an indomitable spirit of perseverance. They have also proved that the Vietnamese nation cannot only undauntedly survive, but also maintain a tendency to further advance with a bright hope. [applause]

The multiethnic Lao people wish to wholeheartedly hail the aforesaid achievements of the fraternal Vietnamese people. [applause] We consider the achievements of the fraternal Vietnamese people as a great encouragement for the Lao people to translate into reality the resolution of the fifth LPRP congress and to further build and promote the popular democratic system for the plentiful and happy life of the people and for the prosperity and strength of the country. [applause]

Beloved comrades and friends, over the past decades, the two peoples of Laos and Vietnam have suffered the same fate and have fought shoulder to shoulder to gain national independence and freedom. On the tortuous path of the fierce and furious revolutionary struggle, our two peoples have shared weal and woe, supported and assisted each other on the basis of sharing every grain of rice and every vegetable. Our two peoples have always offered an unlimited sacrifice to each other. Amid the long combat alliance, the Laos-Vietnam special solidarity has emerged and increasingly developed. It has become one of the basic factors which have determined victories of our two countries' revolution. In this regard, beloved and respected Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihane has said: In the history of world revolution, there have been many brilliant examples of proletarian internationalism, but nowhere and at no time has there been such a long and all-around special combat alliance which remains as bright, pure, and steady as it was decades ago. [applause]

Our Lao people are very proud to note that in this new stage, despite the facts that the international situation has changed in a complicated way and that hostile forces have resorted to using all sabotage and subversive schemes against our two countries, our two peoples have not ceased to further promote and expand ever more fruitfully the said special solidarity—our precious heredity. We are very elated to see that the party, government, and people of Vietnam have always given great and all-around assistance to our Lao revolution. Even at a time when their country was still in difficulties, the Vietnamese comrades were always the first ones to reach and render assistance to our Lao people when our Lao people were in need. The Vietnamese comrades have always helped us in a pure spirit of sacrifice. All these have shown the firm intention of the party, government, and fraternal people of Vietnam to translate into reality the contents of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between our two countries, the 15th anniversary of which we have just celebrated.

On this grand occasion, on behalf of the party, government, and multiethnic people of Laos, we would like to express sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the party, government, and fraternal people of Vietnam for

having all along rendered the great and precious support and assistance to the Lao revolution. [applause]

Beloved comrades and friends, the friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] of the high-level delegation of the SRV party and state is nearing an end. The Vientiane residents, as well as the entire Lao people, are very satisfied with the outcome of the consultative meetings between leaders of the two sides. We pledge to strive to educate and train the entire party and people to securely maintain and fruitfully expand the great friendship, special solidarity, and all-around cooperation between Laos and Vietnam forever. Correctly implementing the teachings of beloved and respected Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihane who has said: The friendship relations and special solidarity between our two countries have not only served as revolutionary perseverance deeply engraved in the hearts of the entire Lao and Vietnamese peoples, but also served as an endless, invincible force of our revolutionary cause, [applause] we pledge not to lessen the support and assistance to the fraternal Vietnamese people in the sacred cause of building socialism and defending the country. At the same time, we pledge to fully support the foreign policy and activities of the Vietnamese party and government which have intended to safeguard the independence and to promote peace, friendship, and fine cooperation with various countries in the region and the world on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. [applause]

We are convinced that by pursuing the correct line of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and with their unique solidarity, resolute determination, profound patriotic spirit, industriousness, perseverance, and initiatives, the fraternal Vietnamese people will certainly win new, still greater success in carrying out the cause of comprehensive renovation, firmly march forward to achieving the goal that they have chosen, build the prosperous and strong Vietnamese country, and worthily contribute to the common cause of various nations in the world for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

We wish the high-level delegation of the Vietnamese party and state glorious success in this visit to the LPDR. [applause] We wish beloved and respected Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and all other Vietnamese comrades good health. [applause]

Long live the Laos-Vietnam great friendship, special solidarity, and all-around cooperation! [applause]

Do Muoi Gives Rally Speech

BK1608110892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Speech by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of the visiting Vietnamese party-state delegation, delivered at a rally held in Vientiane on 16 August—read by announcer]

[Text] The party-state delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] is extremely happy to visit the beautiful country of Laos and to once again shake hands with our fraternal comrades, who have stood shoulder to shoulder and shared weal and woe with us in the past and have given sincere assistance to each other throughout the periods of national construction and national defense in our respective countries. On this occasion, our delegation would like to convey the profound and heartfelt affection of the Vietnamese people to all trustworthy Lao friends.

I would like to ask your permission to act on behalf of the Vietnamese party-state delegation in expressing our sincere thanks to the comrade party and state leaders of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and fraternal Lao people for extending profound friendship and hospitality to our delegation right as we set foot in your beloved capital city of Vientiane. I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Lao people and Vientiane residents of all strata for attending this grand and friendship-filled rally. At the same time, I would like to ask our comrades and friends here to convey our thanks and best wishes to the entire multiethnic Lao people.

Comrades and friends, every time we visit your country we are very pleased to see with our own eyes the great changes in all fields attained by the multiethnic Lao people through hard work and with their own initiatives in each period of the revolution. During this visit, we are specifically joyous to see numerous great achievements won by the fraternal multiethnic Lao people in the cause of restructuring and in their perseverance to triumphantly implement the resolution of the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. At present, with the promulgation of the new LPDR Constitution, the right to mastership of the multiethnic Lao people has been further enhanced; the democratic foundation has been strengthened; and the management of the state has been regulated with laws. On the basis of the said constitution, the new regime has been continually consolidated and strengthened with every passing day. Under conditions where the world is undergoing a profound change, the fraternal multiethnic Lao people have managed to overcome numerous difficulties and trials and have effectively maintained political stability, peace, and social security. This resulted in the consolidation of national defense and the rigorous strengthening of the tasks of national defense and national construction. Your economic foundation continues to develop. The life of the people has become peaceful and normal and, in many areas, it has obviously been improved.

In foreign affairs, the LPDR has made active contributions to maintaining genuine peace and friendship in the world. By advancing some initiatives to resolve regional issues, by becoming a signatory to the Bali Treaty in the recent past, and by signing the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the LPDR has actively contributed to building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation. In parallel with carrying out

such active international activities, Laos' policy of broadening relations with foreign countries has also helped to create a favorable international environment conducive to the cause of national construction and development in this country. The LPDR's influence in the international arena has been increasingly bolstered with every passing day. The above-mentioned glorious successes of the Lao people have been attained thanks to the earnest and determined implementation of the LPRP's correct and creative line of restructuring by the entire Lao party, army, and people. The Vietnamese people would like to wholeheartedly salute and hail the achievements of the fraternal Lao people. We sincerely wish that you, our friends, win ever greater victories in the tasks of national defense and national construction, successfully fulfilling the restructuring initiated and guided by the LPRP, and honorably contributing to the cause of peace and progress in the region and the world.

Comrades and friends, as the fraternal multiethnic Lao people are striving to compete with one another in implementing the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress, we the Vietnamese people are also endeavoring to translate into practice the resolutions adopted at the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and are winning important initial victories in all facets of our social life. In politics, the SRV Eighth National Assembly has endorsed the new constitution reaffirming our goal, that is, to build socialism with the CPV as leader. The constitution reflects the party's renovation line. On the basis of the constitution and the new electoral law, we have conducted the election to the Ninth National Assembly with a spirit of democracy and renovation. Our political stability continues to be securely safeguarded. Our economic branches have made steps of considerable development while inflation has been curbed, prices more or less stabilized, and the people's living conditions normalized and peaceful to a certain extent or even improved in some quarters. This progress has reinforced our faith in the future of our country. It has reaffirmed that we are capable of not only remaining securely stable but making progress as well. On the basis of these successes, we have outlined the targets for the period from 1992 to 1995 as follows: striving to overcome all difficulties and trials, persisting to normalize and develop the economy and society, increasing political stability, doing away with all acts of negative phenomena and injustices in society, and guiding our country to basically extricate itself from the current crisis and to march forward.

In foreign affairs, implementing our party's and state's policy which says that Vietnam wishes to befriend all countries in the international community and to persevere for peace, independence, and development, we have won some important victories in consolidating, strengthening, and developing our relations with the countries in the region and the world and in acquiring support and assistance from many countries, international organizations, and friends on the five continents to serve our cause of renovation. As a neighboring country and a

signatory to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, together with Laos, Vietnam always respects and actively implements this agreement with the hope that it will be strictly enforced so that Cambodia can be turned into a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned country friendly with all countries. While implementing the policy of transforming our foreign relations into a multifaceted and multiple form pattern, we always firmly adhere to our national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; steadfastly combine genuine patriotism with internationalism of the proletariat; and, at the same time, consistently implement the policy of solidarity toward the socialist countries, the communist and international workers movements, national independence movements, the Nonaligned Movement, and all peace and progressive forces in the world; and actively contribute to the struggle for a common victory.

Comrades and friends, as intimate neighboring countries sharing the same Truong Son mountain range and the same Mekong River and struggling together to fulfill esteemed common ideals, that is, to attain national independence, freedom, and happiness for the peoples, Vietnam and Laos have long maintained a tradition of friendship. The history of our two countries shows that we have sincerely maintained a tradition of mutual solidarity and assistance for centuries. Having been painstakingly strengthened and nurtured by the late president, Ho Chi Minh, and the two parties, the relations of friendship and special solidarity between Vietnam and Laos, which have been consolidated and developed throughout the history of the struggles for independence and national construction and defense in each country, have now become model relations which are extremely pure and rare in the world. Our two parties, states, and peoples must remember this development forever. We are grateful to the great sacrifices and contributions made by several generations of our outstanding revolutionary fighters who are the excellent and beloved children of the peoples in the two countries, fighting for the durability of the special Vietnamese-Lao solidarity.

Given the rapidly and complicatedly changing world situation at present, it is even more crucial than ever that our two parties, states, and peoples strive to safeguard, consolidate, and preserve the Vietnamese-Lao relations of friendship and special solidarity which are the invaluable heritage left behind by senior revolutionaries in the two countries. These relations have become [words indistinct] and continue to be an important decisive factor in all victories in the restructuring in each country, leading our revolutionary cause to complete victory.

For our part, having appreciated the teachings of President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people pledge to do everything to the best of our ability, together with the fraternal multiethnic Lao people, to incessantly safeguard, upgrade, and develop the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos for the common interests of the two peoples, for the victories of the restructuring in

our two countries, and for peace, stability, cooperation, and development in this region and the world.

This year, our two peoples are celebrating together the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Vietnamese-Lao Friendship and Cooperation. On this glorious occasion, we would like to reaffirm that we will completely fulfill all obligations stated in the said treaty. We will cooperate with our Lao comrades in transforming the relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries along the direction of raising their efficiency and quality to conform to the aspirations of the two peoples and to create a new stage of development in Vietnamese-Lao relations and cooperation.

On this majestic occasion filled with the spirit of fraternal friendship prevailing at this rally, on behalf of the CPV and the Vietnamese state and people, I would like to express our sincere and profound gratitude toward the Lao party, state, and multiethnic people for having rendered priceless and friendly support and assistance to the Vietnamese revolution.

May the multiethnic Lao people under the leadership of the LPRP headed by respected and beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane attain victories in implementing the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress and successfully building Laos into a country of peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity.

May the Vietnamese-Lao relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensiveness remain pure, beautiful, and eternal.

May the gallant Vietnamese residents attain successes in building their municipal capital into a beautiful city with wealth and prosperity so that it will become the heart of the country and the pride of the fraternal multiethnic Lao people.

Visit Ends; Delegation Departs

BK1608134492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Report on ceremony held at Wattai International Airport in Vientiane to send off the SRV delegation led by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, on the afternoon of 16 August]

[Text] This afternoon, the high-level delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the SRV [Socialist Republic of Vietnam] state led by Do Muoi, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, left Vientiane for Hanoi after a five-day official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the LPDR.

A grand ceremony was held to officially send off the delegation from Wattai International Airport.

Seeing off General Secretary Do Muoi and his delegation were Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the LPRP Central committee and president of the LPDR; Nouthak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the National Assembly; Khamtai Siphandon, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, prime minister; Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and foreign affairs minister; Khamphoui Keoboulapha, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of economy, planning, and finance; Oudom Khatthigna, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, secretary of the Vientiane municipal party committee and lord mayor of Vientiane Municipality; members of the LPRP Central Committee; ministers and deputy ministers; members of the National Assembly; and a large number of high-ranking military, police, and civilian officers.

Khamphet Phengmeuang, LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the SRV; Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the LPDR; staff members of the SRV Embassy; and representatives of overseas Vietnamese residents in Vientiane were also on hand to bid farewell to General Secretary Do Muoi and his delegation.

The send-off ceremony began with the procession of a motorcade of the state guests leaving from the Government Guest House to Wattai International Airport and passing through a large crowd of Vientiane residents bearing Lao and Vietnamese national flags and lining the road leading to the airport.

At 1440, the motorcade arrived at the airport. [music is heard]

Chairman Kaysone Phomvihane accompanied General Secretary Do Muoi to the reviewing stand decorated with the national flags of Laos and Vietnam while the Lao People's Army [LPA] brass band played the Lao and Vietnamese national anthems. [Lao and Vietnamese national anthems are heard]

After that the commander of the LPA honor guard read a report hailing the success of the official friendship visit to the LPDR by the high-level party-state delegation of the SRV.

After inspecting the LPA honor guard, General Secretary Do Muoi shook hands with many important personalities and well-wishers present at the airport and accepted a bouquet of flowers from pioneer youths. Before boarding the plane, General Secretary Do Muoi shook hands with and hugged Chairman Kaysone Phomvihane, Nouthak Phoumsavan, Khamtai Siphandon, Phoun Sipaseut, Khamphoui Keoboulapha, and other Lao party and state leaders who were on the airport tarmac to bid farewell to the state guests.

At 1500, the special plane of the Vietnam Airways Company took off, heading to Hanoi, thus ending the

official friendship visit to the LPDR by the high-level party-state delegation of the SRV with brilliant success.

Joint SRV Science-Technical Committee Meets

*BK1408133692 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT
14 Aug 92*

[Text] Vientiane, August 14 (KPL)—The Scientific-Technical Cooperation Committees of Laos and Vietnam opened here on August 11 their seventh session.

Heading the two sides in the session were Dr. Souli Nanthavong, minister of Science and Technology of Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], and Prof. Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the Vietnamese-Lao Scientific-Technical Cooperation Committee.

On the following day, a cooperation agreement was signed by the two sides.

The session reviewed the scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries during 1991-1992. Many issues have been translated into practical deeds efficiently. The cooperation has stimulated the development of technical and scientific move in the two countries and provided each other with documents and information of scientific and technical development.

The two sides also discussed the cooperation in scientific and technological research and environment for the period 1992-93.

Agreement Signed 12 Aug

*BK1408153592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 1400 GMT 14 Aug 92*

[Text] The signing ceremony of an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for 1992-1993 was held on the evening of 12 August at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The agreement was signed by LPDR Minister of Science and Technology Souli Nanthavong and Professor Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the SRV State Scientific Committee before a number of high-level authorities of the two sides.

The agreement covers the protection and exploitation of natural resources, conservation of the environment, technological research, rural development, weight and volume measurement, and quality control and inspection of food and medicine.

The two sides also agreed on [word indistinct]. They have had scientific and technological cooperation since 1985. In recent years, both sides have exchanged knowledge and research on scientific and technological developments, thus contributing to its gradual improvement and to their special friendship and cooperation.

On 13 August, the Vietnamese scientific and technical delegation left for home after attending the meeting of the Scientific-Technical Cooperation Committees of Laos and Vietnam in Vientiane.

PASASON Reviews Relations With Vietnam

Friendship Strengthened

*BK1408140592 Vientiane PASASON in Lao
7 Aug 92 p 3*

[Article by Vilaivan entitled: "Lao-Vietnamese Friendship Ceaselessly Strengthened and Multiplied"]

[Text] With the motto "sharing even a single grain of rice and a single string of vegetable," for half a century, the Lao and Vietnamese peoples have stood shoulder to shoulder to win victories. Countless instances depicting the tradition of cooperation, relentless fighting, and special solidarity between the two peoples have been recorded in several pages of the history of the two countries.

After the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, our relations with neighboring countries entered a new dimension on the basis on mutual interests. Our friendship and solidarity with the SRV in particular, deepened in accordance with certain methods and principles that conformed to the restructuring lines defined by the two parties and states. This was in keeping with the lasting and fundamental interests of the people in each country. In politics, regular contacts and exchanges of views between the high-level leaderships of the two parties and states on the internal situation of each country, mutual ties, and various international issues of mutual interest have become important factors for ensuring mutual sympathy and trust.

It can be said that our relations and economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation have been worked through various agreements and protocols on mutual aid and interest-free loans. These are for the periods between 1978 and 1980, 1984 and 1985, 1986 and 1990, and for 1991 as well as the 1992-1995 cooperation agreement. Many large- and small-scale construction projects have been jointly undertaken, such as the construction of roads, bridges, gutters, offices, schools, hospitals, oil pipelines, and other industrial establishments, especially in former resistance areas.

Following the adoption of the restructuring policies of the two countries, especially after the 7th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the 5th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, their economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation have gradually changed. This change is aimed at increasing the quality and efficiency of production according to the capabilities of each country and on the basis of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and the spirit of fraternity. On the basis of the 1992-1995 cooperation agreement, the two sides have agreed to conduct

a feasibility study on the building and usage of the Son La port and Highway No. 12. The study is now underway.

The restructuring in both Laos and Vietnam have so far been satisfactorily fulfilled with some initial successes. Nonetheless, both peoples still face numerous difficulties and trials. With the rapidly and complicatedly changing international situation and increasing efforts by hostile forces to effect a nonviolent change in our countries, it is very important that our special relations and comprehensive cooperation be consolidated and continually strengthened. It is now more crucial than ever that the fraternal Lao and Vietnamese peoples concentrate all efforts to deepen and forge the great friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

'Pure' Relations Enhanced

BK1708145092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Aug 92

[PASASON 17 August editorial: "Let Us Enhance and Promote Lao-Vietnamese Relations To Remain Pure Forever"]

[Text] The high-level delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the state of the SRV led by Do Muoi, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, which paid an official friendship visit to our country, ended its sojourn here and returned home with brilliant success.

During its stay in our country, the high-level SRV party-state delegation led by General Secretary Do Muoi met and held talks with the delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Kayson Phomvihane, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and president of the LPDR, amidst an atmosphere of profound friendship and brotherliness. The two sides informed each other of the situation of each party and state after the visit to the SRV by Kayson Phomvihane in October 1991; reviewed the decisions made earlier by the leaders of the two countries; consulted with each other on measures to consolidate and renovate the relations aimed at further enhancing the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries; and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two sides, reaching unanimity, issued a joint communique reaffirming the need to consolidate, enhance, and develop the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam to become profound with a new quality and efficiency in conformity with the restructuring policies and capabilities of each country on the basis of the principles of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, mutual benefits, and the spirit of fraternity and comradeship. The two sides are determined to pursue

open-door policies based on diversified and multilateral features aimed at strengthening their relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries in the region and all over the world. The two sides unanimously maintained that the official participation of the SRV and the LPDR in the Southeast Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in late July marks a new development in the relations of neighborliness among the countries in this region, contributing to consolidating and strengthening mutual trust, and opening up new prospects for cooperation and development in this region.

It can be attested that through this visit to the LPDR by the high-level SRV party-state delegation and through several past visits to the SRV by the high-level LPRP and LPDR delegations, the two sides have gradually developed a more profound understanding of each other, resulting in the development of the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries into a new dimension of a new quality.

This friendship visit has ended with a glorious success. The joint communique issued by the two sides after the successful visit constitutes a new firm basis for the continual consolidation and development of the relations in all fields [between the two countries]. This joint communique has also become an important document defining the direction and mechanism for more effectively deepening the cooperation between the two countries.

In his address delivered at the banquet in honor of the high-level SRV party-state delegation [in Vientiane on 12 August], President Kayson Phomvihane said: We regard the visit to the LPDR by Comrade Do Muoi this time as an event of special significance. This is because in addition to reemphasizing the long-standing profound fraternal friendship and special solidarity between the Lao and Vietnamese people, this visit also constitutes an important step in the strengthening of the relations and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries with a new quality in conformity with the aspirations of the two sides.

In his address delivered at the same banquet, General Secretary Do Muoi said: The history of our two countries shows that we have lived in harmony and unity for centuries. For hundreds of years, we have relied on each other in carrying out the struggle and national construction, thus forging our relations into a special bond and become our common priceless heritage and a decisive factor for winning victories for the revolutions in each country. These ties have been transformed into the form of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation to become a firm foundation for continual consolidation and development of the relations in all fields between our two countries.

In addition to serving to consolidate the special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the long-time brothers and comrades of Laos and Vietnam, the

glorious success of the visit to our country by the high-level CPV-SRV delegation has also become a strong encouragement to all members of our party as well as our cadres, state employees, workers, soliders, policemen, and people of all strata in the implementation of the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress and our party's policy of renovation to attain victorious successes.

We hail the brilliant success of the friendship visit to our country by General Secretary Do Muoi this time with practical deeds by continuing to more effectively implement the policy of renovation adopted at the Fifth LPRP Congress, by heightening our sense of responsibility in performing our tasks, and by outstandingly fulfilling all annual plans of all units, departments, localities, and services. The more we are proud of the traditional Lao-Vietnamese relations of friendship, the more attention we will pay to educating everyone to clearly understand the intention and objective of our party in maintaining the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam to be a factor ensuring victories for the tasks of national liberation and national defense and for the building of a new life to become a source of strength for national development at present as well as in the future.

The Mekong River will never run dry, and neither will the spirit of the Lao-Vietnamese relations. Let us be determined to consolidate and enhance the traditional Lao-Vietnamese relations of friendship so as to make them grow and remain pure forever.

Supreme People's Assembly Convenes Session

BK1708105392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] The ninth plenary session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] was officially convened at the SPA Meeting Hall in Vientiane this morning under the chairmanship of SPA Chairman Nouthak Phoumsavan. Attendance at the session included many invited guests from many government and governmental-level organizations, in addition to 77 SPA members from many localities throughout the country. Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the presidium of SPA Standing Committee, discussed the objective of the SPA session as follows:

[Begin Chaleun recording] Beloved listeners, today the ninth plenary session of the Second SPA was convened in Vientiane. The fundamental objective of this session is to discuss certain issues regarding elections to the Third National Assembly. As we all know well, the Second SPA—which was elected in 1989 to act as a constitution-drafting body—has already completed its constitution-drafting task and the enactment of many laws needing enforcement. Therefore, it is necessary that we elect a new national assembly to replace it to implement (the constitution) and to supervise the policy to restructure our political system.

The session will last for three days—from 17 to 19 August. On the first day, the meeting will concentrate on

studying the position, role, and duties of the Third National Assembly. This means that the session will study the [words indistinct] of the Third National Assembly, as well as the contents and value of this assembly. This is very important for defining the direction of the organization of elections to the Third National Assembly—this is an important, fundamental issue. During the morning and afternoon periods today, the delegates will express their views openly and in earnest to prepare for the election. Issues concerning the standard, structure, and number of members of the Third National Assembly will be deliberated on the following day. Therefore, I would like to encourage you, listeners of this program, to follow the progress of the session. Tomorrow, I will brief you again on this national radio station. Thank you. [end recording]

Nouthak Phoumsavan Speaks at Opening

BK1708145992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] The ninth plenary session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] was officially convened on the morning of 17 August under the chairmanship of SPA Chairman Nouthak Phoumsavan.

In his address opening the SPA session, Nouthak Phoumsavan in part said: This session is of special significance, for it will discuss some issues relating to the election to the Third National Assembly. This is important because the implementation of the constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is the activity of the National Assembly and the continued pursuance of the policy of renovating our political system outlined in the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress.

The SPA chairman added: Over the past more than three years, we have concentrated efforts on fulfilling our fundamental tasks of drafting and endorsing the constitution of the LPDR as the basic law of the country. We have also enacted and endorsed the Criminal Law, the Civil Law, and a number of other necessary business laws. The fulfillment of these tasks mark a new step in the gradual transformation of the management of the state from the enforcement of decrees and instructions as a primary task to the enforcement of laws and regulations.

Nouthak Phoumsavan stressed the importance of the position and role of the National Assembly, adding: The ninth plenary session will discuss certain issues relating to elections to the Third National Assembly, which will be held at the end of this year. In particular, it will discuss the position, role, and significance of the National Assembly as well as its standards and structure. The new national assembly will place an emphasis on its political quality through the display of the political standards of voters who will exercise their election rights in accordance with the constitution and electoral law. The SPA chairman called on SPA members to further enhance their democratic rights and to uphold their responsibilities by voluntarily contributing their views to and reaching unanimity on all issues discussed at the session.

Attending the opening SPA session were Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister; Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; ministers and deputy ministers; members of the SPA Standing Committee; and more than 100 SPA members. The ninth plenary session of the Second SPA will continue for three consecutive days.

Villages in Bolikhamsai Establish 'Rice Banks'

BK1408121692 Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 14 (KPL)—Four villages of Saisavang, Nonsomboun, Sibounheuang, and Nampa, Paksan District, Bolikhamsai Province, early this month created their own rice banks by using 11 metric tons of rice relief provided by the CIDSE [Cooperation Internationale pour le Developpement et la Solidarite Economique] as capital.

CIDSE, a Catholic organization, is one of the NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] in the country which is active in socioeconomic building in rural Laos.

The bank will lend rice to the needy who will pay back the loans to the bank after their rice harvest with 10 percent of interest.

Up to now, similar rice banks have been set up by 13 villages.

Philippines

De Villa: Subic Open to U.S. for Gulf War

HK1808040492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa has confirmed that the United States can still use the Subic Bay Naval Station if a new Gulf war erupts, even though the Senate has rejected a new treaty on military bases.

De Villa said the Philippines is still bound by the Mutual Defense Treaty negotiated by former Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus. De Villa added, however, that the United States can use the base only for refueling and not as a combat ground [last two words in English].

Embassies Warned To Prepare for New Gulf War

HK1808063292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Aug 92 p 6

[Text] The foreign office has directed the country's embassies and consulates in the Middle East to reactivate their contingency plans for Filipino workers amid threats by the U.S. and its allies to bomb Iraq anew.

Interviewed by DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] newsmen, Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, however, ruled out the repatriation of Filipino workers in the region.

Instead, the contingency plans call for among other things, the evacuation of the workers, particularly those in Iraq and Kuwait, to "safer areas" in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman.

According to sources at the DFA's West Asia (formerly Middle East) and African Affairs office, the department anticipates the closure of all sea and air routes in the region should a shooting war erupt, making it difficult to repatriate Filipino workers.

Majority of the workers are likely to be "landlocked" in Saudi Arabia, the same sources added.

There are close to 550,000 Filipinos in the Middle East, according to the DFA.

Covered by the DFA directive are the Philippine embassies in Baghdad, Kuwait; Riyadh, and Amman, and the consulates in Jeddah, Doha, Bahrain; Muscat, and Dubai.

The diplomatic missions were also directed to "monitor closely the developments in the region."

Before last year's Gulf War began, the missions repatriated to Manila thousands of Filipino workers in Kuwait and Iraq.

Others were relocated to safer areas, mostly within the eastern province of the Middle East kingdom.

During the Gulf War, the Philippines sent a medical contingent, not as a gesture of support for the U.S.-led assault on Iraq, but as "manifestation of support for the defense of Saudi Arabia."

Then Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said that although the country supported the United Nations resolutions against Baghdad, including the authority to use force to drive it out of Kuwait, the Philippines did not want to get involved with the 28-nation alliance's military operations against Iraq.

Meanwhile, Romulo said the foreign office will actively involve the business community in the country's diplomatic initiatives.

Romulo told newsmen the DFA will do it "as early a stage as possible," including Filipino business groups' participation in high-level official visits to other countries and in the reception of official visitors to the country.

"For the involvement of the private sector in our economic diplomacy, we shall establish clear channels of communication and practical mechanisms for co-operation," he said.

Romulo said that "in sum, the economic well-being of our people, as well as their security, shall be the primary motivation for our diplomacy and foreign relations."

Mass Surrender by Rebels Reportedly Fictitious

*HK1808091792 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 18 Aug 92 p 1*

[By Bobby Timonera—italicized passages published in Tagalog]

[Text] The reported surrender of nearly 200 rebels in war-torn Marag Valley last week—which was described by House Speaker Jose de Venecia as “the first major response to (President Ramos’) amnesty program”—did not actually happen, one of the supposed surrenderers said yesterday.

Mely Daridag, 25, an Isneg woman from Marag Valley in Kalinga-Apayao, said the so-called surrenderers were actually evacuees who left the valley because they could no longer endure the “ethnocidal war” reportedly being waged by the military.

Daridag, one of the natives of Marag who attended a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, said they numbered only 131, about 70 of whom were sickly children. (De Venecia reported 191.)

““We felt bad when we heard that we surrendered as rebels,” she told the INQUIRER. ““How can it be a surrender when we did not even have guns?””

She was accompanied at the press conference by Sonia and Susan Coritag, 13 and 11 years old, respectively, who were reportedly among the surrenderers.

Daridag, whose husband died after falling ill during a massive military bombardment of the valley early in 1990, said they left Marag because they had nothing to eat. She said they were also seeking medical assistance, especially for their children.

Dojo Flores, spokesman of the Manila-based Saranay Ti Umili Ti Amianan (Save the People of the North), said the evacuees had actually sought assistance from the local government of neighboring Pamplona town and from officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development before they left Marag.

The military, Flores said, had also been informed of the evacuees’ plan to go to Pamplona.

Flores, who was then with the evacuees, said that by the time they moved out, Brig. Gen. Roberto Manlongos of the 503rd Brigade, with a medical team and press people in tow, had also gone to Pamplona.

Before the evacuees knew it, they were being billed on the national dailies’ front pages as the “biggest batch” of surrenderers ever in the new administration.

Similar “fake surrenders” were also reported in Mindanao, where never-heard-of commanders of the various factions of the Muslim secessionist movement took turns in “pledging allegiance” to the government.

Father Pedro Salgado, O.P. [Order of Preacher], coordinator of Saranay, also said during the press conference that with the Armed Forces’ Lambat-Bitag [net trap] project, the military was practically waging an “ethnocidal war.”

He added that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has “perpetrated so many killings, arrests, burnings, strafings, bombings, and food blockades” that have “uprooted” the tribal people from their homeland.

Vicente Carlos Appointed Acting Tourism Secretary

HK1808054292 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos appointed Attorney Vicente Carlos as the new acting secretary of the Department of Tourism today. Carlos comes from the private sector and is a well-known corporate lawyer. Presidential spokesperson Annabel Tecson Abaya has said that Carlos will begin his tenure on 1 September.

Incumbent Acting Tourism Secretary Narzalina Lim has said that she is happy with Carlos’ appointment, as she was the one who recommended him for the post. Reportedly, Lim had earlier expressed her intention to return to the private sector. According to Abaya, this prompted the president to appoint a new and—hopefully—more permanent secretary for the Department of Tourism. Unfortunately, Abaya did not clarify whether Narzalina Lim has formally resigned.

Ramos Issues Funds for Development of Mindanao

HK1408112992 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 14 Aug 92

[By Rowena Papasin—passage in italics in English]

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos issued today P695 [Philippine pesos] million to fund infrastructure and power projects in Mindanao.

During his visit today in Cagayan de Oro City, the president promised that the region will no longer face another power crisis, and that the government will set-up the infrastructure needed to develop the region.

Of the funds, P400 million will be set aside for construction of the Cagayan de Oro Power Light Company power plant. Under the National Power Corporation’s *crash program*, the region is assured of 98 megawatts of electricity by April or September 1993.

The president has also instructed Secretary Jose de Jesus of the Department of Public Works and Highways to expedite the construction of the Davao-Bukidnon Road.

Also in line with the government’s infrastructure development projects, the president has also issued P295 million for the modernization of the Butuan City Telephone Company. He also ordered the National Economic Development Authority to study and act on the

proposed Cagayan de Oro-Iligan City Corridor Masterplan, while the Board of Investments studies the proposed construction of an integrated steel mill.

In terms of labor, the president has ordered the setting up of a Philippine Overseas Employment Administration office in Cagayan de Oro City to facilitate in the processing of overseas employment applications of Northern Mindanao residents.

Concurrently, the Department of Budget and Management will also be releasing additional funds to finance the establishment of provincial man-power training centers in the region.

'Presidential Commission Against Poverty' Created

HK1408112892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 17 Aug 92

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has formally created the Presidential Commission Against Poverty, to be headed by former Negros Occidental Governor Daniel Biday Lacson.

The commission was created by virtue of an executive order which the president signed before delegates of the 1992 Mindanao Business Conference, held at the Price Plaza Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City.

The commission aims to solve the problem of poverty in the nation and to give the Filipino people a decent standard of living. It will also embody all the projects for the poor.

According to Lacson, the commission will first act on the concerns of the country's 30 poorest provinces, including Leyte, Samar, Masbate, Romblon and Tawi-Tawi.

Balance of Payments Surplus Falls in First Half

HK1808090592 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 18 Aug 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] The balance of payments (BOP) surplus declined to \$87 million for the first five months of the year, 88.1% lower than the yearago surplus of \$733 million, Central Bank data show.

This was partly due to the outflow of funds for the \$1.2-billion debt buyback.

The contraction was also due to lower inflows of new money from bilateral sources such as the Japanese Government and multilateral institutions like the Asian Development Bank.

Without rescheduling of debt owed to the Paris Club and the commercial banks, the overall position would have incurred a deficit of \$515 million. For May alone, Government already posted a BOP deficit of \$269 million.

On a positive note, the current account (receipts from the trade and services sector) deficit narrowed down to \$556 million from last year's \$661 million due to higher service receipts.

The merchandise trade gap increased by 20.86% to \$1.88 billion from last year's \$1.56 billion. At \$3.7 billion, exports advanced by 8.2% because of higher shipments of electronics, garments, coconut oil, machinery, and transport equipment.

Imports, meanwhile, grew by 12.1% at \$5.6 billion, more than half accounted for by additional arrivals of raw materials and intermediate goods such as textile yarn and iron and steel.

Purchases of capital goods also recorded a hefty increase of \$180 million due to higher imports of telecommunications equipment, electrical machinery and power generators.

With respect to the non-merchandise trade account, a \$512-million surplus was realized on receipts of \$2.86 billion and disbursements of \$1.9 billion. Receipts expanded by \$638 million following the increased inflows from remittances of overseas contract workers.

Higher outlays for profits, earnings and dividends and other services accounted for the \$189 million rise in invisible payments.

27 Naval Officers To Join UN Force in Cambodia

HK1708031792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 16 Aug 92 p 1

[By Hector Saquin]

[Text] Ninoy Aquino International Airport—Twenty-seven well-trained Philippine Navy (PN) personnel, all non-commissioned officers, were airlifted yesterday to join their soldier countrymen now on duty with the United Nations Transitional Authority Command (UNTAC) in Cambodia.

Vice Admiral Mariano J. Dumancas Jr., Navy chief, who personally saw the PN contingent off on board a commercial aircraft, said that the 27 non-coms will bring to 125 the number of Filipino sailors and Marines assigned to the UNTAC.

"Last May 1, six Navy officers, 10 sailors, and two Marine enlisted men were initially detailed with UNTAC," Dumancas said. "Nineteen days later, on May 20, the group was followed by an all-Marine contingent, consisting of two Marine officers and 74 soldiers."

The latest group to leave for Cambodia consists of 12 chief petty officers, equivalent to master sergeants; 12 petty officers, first class (technical sergeants); two petty officers, second class (staff sergeants); and one petty officer, third class (buck sergeant).

Latest reports received from UNTAC were that the Navy-Marine contingent is now deployed at the Phnom

Penn River base, Kampong Sam Port, Ream Naval Base, Kohtong Sea Base, Kampong Channang, Cambodia-Vietnam border along the Tongle Basac River, and Cambodia-Vietnam border along the Mekong River.

Air Force Receives 11 More Huey Helicopters

*HK1708032992 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 15 Aug 92 p 14*

[By Ronnie C. de Guzman]

[Text] Villamor Air Base, Pasay City—Eleven more helicopters composing the last batch of five UH-1H "Hueys" and six MG-520s were turned over to the Philippine Air Force [PAF] yesterday in simple ceremonies here.

The helicopters, which cost approximately \$726,000, were procured from the United States through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement. The Air Force now has a fleet of 70 Huey helicopters and 28 MG 520s.

The helicopters were turned over to PAF chief Brig. Gen. Leopoldo S. Acot Jr. by Col. Richard H. Taylor, chief, JUSMAG [expansion unknown] Philippines.

The five UH-1H helicopters will be assigned to the 250th helicopter Wing here while the six MG-520s will go to the 15th Strike Wing at Sangley Air Base in Cavite City. Air Force authorities said the additional helicopters will greatly boost the air support capability of the command in the counterinsurgency campaign as well as in relief operations and other humanitarian activities.

The helicopters were inspected and inventoried by a team from the 420th Supply Wing, before the choppers were accepted by General Acot.

Thailand

Ministry Prepared To Lobby Against U.S. Bill

*BK1708120692 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
14 Aug 92 p 6*

[Text] According to a Commerce Ministry source, Thailand is prepared to lobby the United States against a bill seeking to impose stricter controls on quality and standards of food imports. Under the bill, there will be stricter checks on additives as well as packaging and production procedures, and this could have a severe impact on Thailand.

Prime Minister Backs Indochina Gateway Concept

*BK1808042192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Aug 92 pp 1, 3*

[Text] Thailand aims to help achieve a new era of peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia by offering to serve as a "gateway" for Indochina, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday.

Mr Anan notes the word gateway implies more than just Thailand geographical relationship with Indochina.

"In a much broader sense, gateways means the kind of role that Thailand can and should play in working towards a new era of peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia," he said in a speech to a seminar of the Thailand Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organisation last night.

"Thailand's affinity with Indochina lies at the heart of our ability to play this role.

"I believe our credentials to be this gateway lie deeper than short-term current trade and investment statistics. It is more than economics and geography," Mr Anan said, noting the rapid increase of Asian and international investment in Indochina.

Thailand, as a frontline state next door to Indochina, can play a pivotal role in helping to bridge the division that once existed in the region and help to build a united community of Southeast Asian nations.

The country's rapid economic development has further strengthened the country to assume this role.

"Some may deem it presumptuous that Thailand should claim itself to be the gateway to Indochina. The word 'gateway' seems to have negative connotations.

"And since the famous pronouncement by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan of 'turning battlefields of Indochina into marketplaces', some have come to suspect the actual motives behind Thailand's policies.

"Critics are inclined to believe that Thailand, as the most economically developed country on mainland Southeast Asia, is bent on achieving economic domination of her neighbouring countries.

"These are the kind of misconceptions that misrepresent Thailand's policies towards our neighbouring countries," Mr Anan said.

"I have often spoken in the past, and it has been discussed at great lengths today by distinguished speakers, of the viability of making Thailand the economic centre for the development of Indochina.

"I have often said to visiting corporate leaders and executives from all over the world, that when they look at Thailand and our potential for attracting their investment, they should not look at Thailand in isolation.

"They must also look at Indochina, part and parcel. In future the market for their products will not only be Thailand, but also the markets of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar [Burma].

"Thailand can act as the commercial centre, the distribution centre, as a centre for training and technical assistance.

"In trading, in investment and financial services, Thailand is in a position to be the gateway through which

these economic activities can filter in and out of Indochina to the mutual benefit of all our neighbours," Mr Anan said.

He called for special efforts to forge the new ties of mutual trust.

These could be done through more frequent exchanges of visits and the forging of economic links with these countries.

Such links should extend beyond short-term commercial benefits.

"Over the long term, the strengthening and broadening of links in trade and investment, in transport and telecommunications, and in banking and finance will all provide what I see as an interlocking network of mutually beneficial cooperation that will not only give substance to our relationships but also provide the added guarantee that each side has a stake in maintaining and further developing peaceful and friendly relations," he said.

He believes the Thai economy and those of Indochina can be complementary.

He stressed Thailand is seeking a relationship of 'partnership and not one of exploitation.'

Foreign Minister on Cooperation With Indochina

*BK1808034992 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 p A6*

[“Excerpted” speech by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin at a seminar of the Young Presidents’ Organization on 17 August in Bangkok]

[Text] For the first time in the recent history, Southeast Asia is devoid of major conflict. For far too long, the peoples of the Indochinese countries were deprived of what many have taken for granted, a fundamental right to live in peace with human dignity. The end of the Cold War has now given them for the first time a chance to enjoy that right. Such a path however needs to be guided by shared vision and concerted efforts from all concerned.

The end of the Cold War has resulted in changes of objective and priority on the part of the governments of our neighbouring countries. They have been clearly placing greater emphasis on the well-being of their own peoples. Ideology plays a much less important role in determining their policy. They are taking steps toward the market economy. They are reaching out for capital and know-how. They are willing to play a constructive role in the affairs of the region. They have shown by deeds their strong desire to create a peaceful environment for such constructive development.

That was why Vietnam withdrew from Cambodia and became a signatory of the Paris Peace Agreement. Myanmar [Burma] too is beginning to yield to the wind of change. Yangon [Rangoon] said it is ready to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, while Laos and Vietnam had already done that at the

recent Asean Ministerial Meeting in Manila. I am certain that it is just a matter of time for Cambodia and Myanmar to follow suit.

Such a change of heart on the part of these socialist governments should augur well for the future of Southeast Asia as a whole. This is because their objective placed on the well-being of the people is exactly identical to what Thailand and other Asean countries have been pursuing all along. If we in Thailand and Asean are to succeed, we must succeed together with the rest of Southeast Asia.

We must therefore do everything possible to encourage such a trend. We must give strong support to the efforts of the Indochinese countries and Myanmar so that they will succeed in attaining progress and shared prosperity with the rest of Southeast Asia. The opportunity to forge a new regional order now awaits us all. It is an opportunity which I firmly believe must not be missed. The opportunity to prosper together is here now.

As they have undergone changes, we can now clearly state that we share the identical objective. We then must ask ourselves how best to respond to the above mentioned positive developments in Indochina.

The Thai Government’s objective is very clear. We want to contribute to lasting peace and prosperity in the region. The Government is therefore fully committed to creating a conducive atmosphere which is indispensable to lay the framework for greater cooperation and pave the way for gradual integration of Indochinese countries into the mainstream of Southeast Asian development.

In implementing our policy towards Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, the Government has adopted a three-pronged approach. First, we must take initiative out of goodwill and sincerity. Our officials at all levels and the private sector must recognize the real changes in these countries and they must adjust accordingly.

Secondly, past conflicts must be ended through confidence building measures. The Government has and will continue to face squarely certain legacy lingering from the Cold War with our neighbours. We also seek to tackle other outstanding bilateral issues by trying to work out short-term remedy as well as lay the foundation for a long-term solution.

The third approach is to forge greater cooperation. This is because we believe that such cooperation should not only bring mutual benefits but also move the peoples closer to one another. One of the means to support this positive approach is our ability to extend cooperation in the areas they need and we fortunately have. Though relatively small in amount, our cooperation is designed to support their efforts to develop their market economies and strengthen their human resources. Most of the Bt [Thai baht] 200 million budget earmarked for foreign cooperation in this financial year will be given specifically for Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. I personally chair this policy committee and have stressed that the request for this cooperation must

come from them and that it should play a useful part in supporting their respective national economic and social development plans.

We are in the unique position to be the gateway for greater flows of goods and peoples due not only to our geographical location at the heart of Southeast Asia, but also to the close historical, cultural and social ties existing between Thailand and the Indochinese countries throughout a very long passage of time. And if we take into account the expanded trade between Asean members under the framework of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) and wider economic cooperation under the Apec framework, potential benefits are even more visible.

These benefits are within reach of the Indochinese countries. Thailand will be not only the gateway for the two-way movement of economic and social activities, but also the linchpin for the Indochinese countries to be in touch with and subsequently involved in the process of greater economic interactions with Asean, Apec and beyond.

Government can only lead, then play a supporting role. You, the private sector, are the engine of growth and a driving force behind the success of Thailand's economy. May I take this opportunity to invite you all to expand further your activities with Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. They are badly in need of capital and foreign investment. Their labour force needs know-how and training. You can help them realize their full economic potential so that they too will be rewarded with a higher standard of living. Your business will then thrive even further.

In this connection, Thailand is determined to be an equal partner with interested foreign investors in making available to them our fast-improving facilities as a centre of finance, transport and communication, and human resource development. Our major infrastructural projects to be on line shortly should further contribute to Thailand's readiness to cultivate deeper economic relations with the Indochinese countries.

In supporting our private sector to expand activities in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, I urge that you act responsibly to gain their trust and confidence. We must not pursue quick short-term gains. We must always bear in mind the long-term cooperation and relationship. Such cooperation means that we must impart technology, give them the knowhow and train their labour force.

The Government cannot succeed unless it succeeds in putting behind the past and creating an atmosphere of trust and understanding. With Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, given contemporary history, it certainly requires a great deal of time and patience. We nevertheless are determined to move forward with sincerity and purposefulness.

By way of clarification, allow me at this point to discuss each of the Indochinese countries in brief.

In the past year, our relations with Laos have been remarkably enhanced out of mutual desire and goodwill. On the Thai part, I have assured the Laotian side that we

will seek to resolve all pending issues to make an atmosphere of trust and understanding a lasting one. We took initiative by implementing a number of confidence-building measures. Our recent action has left those supporters of anti-Vientiane insurgency without any doubt that only constructive cooperation with Laos will be allowed to launch from our soil. Those who harbour ill-intention to Thai-Lao good relations will face stern actions by the Thai authorities. In the long-run, the Thai Government is committed to concluding a comprehensive border demarcation agreement with Laos. Such clarity should serve the mutual interest of more interactions between our two peoples.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phoun agreed with me at the outset of the Anan Government that we should accelerate our bilateral cooperation in all fields. The first Thai-Lao Joint Commission at the ministerial level was thus established. Its first meeting, held last year was indeed significant. We were not only able to resolve a number of pending issues, we also were able to chart a new course of constructive cooperation. As I speak, senior officials of both sides are meeting in Vientiane to prepare for the second Joint Commission meeting later on this week.

I look forward very much to meeting and discussing with Foreign Minister Phoun and with him, I believe that our firm determination and sincere efforts will bring about further benefits to the peoples of both nations. Together, the Thais and the Laotians must build a strong foundation to ensure that Mekong River will forever unite the two peoples as it has done for centuries.

Trust and understanding is equally if not more important in building up our relations with Vietnam with whom Thailand has had its sharp differences in the past. Under the first Anan Government, the first Thai-Vietnamese Commission at the ministerial level was established. Our relations with Hanoi have become an understanding and cooperative partnership. We both realize that such a partnership is indispensable for a peaceful and stable Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Anan in January this year made a historic visit to Vietnam as the first Thai head of government since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1976. His counterpart, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, who visited Thailand last year during the first Anan Government, was recently welcomed to Thailand again.

When the two leaders met, three times already in the past twelve months, they certainly had a meeting of minds. A number of issues was thoroughly discussed in an amicable atmosphere, paving the way for resolution of pending problems and cooperative relations in a number of areas.

This interim Government recognizes the time constraint. But it firmly believes that it is in our long-term national interest to speed up the process of drawing the

necessary framework to facilitate greater economic cooperation with Vietnam. The protection of investment agreement has been signed and both sides are discussing a draft agreement on the avoidance of double taxation. Our Board of Investment is about to conclude a cooperative agreement with its Vietnamese counterpart.

As a concrete gesture of our commitment, the Thai Government is ready to offer a modest amount of Bt150 million credit loan to Vietnam. A number of Thai companies have already invested there. Recently, well-established Thai companies such as CP, Siam Cement and Bang Pakong Industrial Park 11 have clearly expressed their intention to undertake large-scale investment in Vietnam.

Cambodia of course is a country which has occupied centre stage in Thailand's foreign policy for the past 13 years. On a personal note, it has also occupied much of my time in public service over the last 13 years. As I state at the recent Asean Ministerial Meeting in Manila apart from the Cambodians themselves, there is no other country that desires peace in Cambodia more than Thailand. It is we who worked with others and urged the Cambodian factions to come together in Phattaya last year which resulted in the signing of the Paris peace agreements.

It was Thailand who first proposed concrete assistance to the SNC long before other donor countries made their pledges. It was Thailand again which first dispatched Army engineers to undertake the risky task of demining to facilitate the safe return to Cambodia of the Cambodia displaced persons and the deployment of Untac forces in Cambodia.

The day after tomorrow, the Defence Minister and I will visit our two Thai battalions of army engineers who have been working on road repair and mine clearing inside Cambodia. Because of the rainy season, the Thai army engineers have suspended their work on Route 5 but instead are undertaking civic actions including the different areas in Cambodia.

On the diplomatic front, the Thai Government will continue to give full support to His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Supreme National Council (SNC), who is the only Cambodian leader capable of bringing about national reconciliation among the Cambodian people. We will continue to work actively with Mr Akashi, special representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Cambodia, all the members of the SNC and other friends to break the current impasse in the peace process. With all these constructive contribution and efforts I have just mentioned, the accusations from some western nations made against Thailand when the DK [Democratic Kampuchea, the Khmer Rouge] refused to comply with phase 2 of the Paris peace plan are therefore totally unacceptable to us.

All in all, our policy towards Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia has been constructed on a firm basis of building expanding cooperation in all areas. Obviously, our

approach could not have yielded concrete results without an equally positive response and strong desire on the part of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

As we look into the future, I sincerely believe that a prosperous Laos, a prosperous Vietnam and a prosperous Cambodia would certainly be in the interest of Thailand and the region. I would like to see the day when we look at one another as close friends and relatives and we know about each other more than we know about other parts of the world.

The journey may be long and tedious. Setbacks may arise from time to time. But what else can be more important than the mission for lasting peace constructed on a solid basis of friendship and harmony in a region of progress and shared prosperity. With that thought, it might not be too long before we see the mainland Southeast Asia unbound by any restraint on the free movement of goods and peoples, unhampered by the events of the past and unleashed to fulfil its potential.

Government Sees CIS as Potential Market

*BK1808042792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Aug 92 p 3*

[Text] Thailand is to place heavy emphasis on the Commonwealth of Independent States as a potential market for a range of products, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday.

Mr Asa yesterday met with a group of CIS businessmen who told him there was vast potential for investors to open new markets there because of its population of about 300 million people.

Mr Asa was joined at the meeting by Thai Ambassador to Russia Kasit Phirom and representatives of the Thai Bankers Association, the Chamber of Commerce Siam Cement Co and Charoen Pokphan Group.

He said a lack of hard currency had been a major problem in the past to increased trade between the CIS and other nations, but Thailand could open these new markets by possibly establishing an export-import bank to allocate loans and credits so Thai goods could be purchased.

Export credit guarantees should also be implemented to assure exporters about products sent to the CIS.

Opening up the CIS market will need close cooperation between the public and private sectors and between all government agencies, said Mr Asa.

He said his ministry would hold talks with the Bank of Thailand and Finance and Commerce Ministry officials on ways to penetrate the CIS market in the future.

Mr Kasit said the CIS bought 300,000 million [as published] tonnes of Thai rice this year and wants to buy a large amount of tapioca sugar, garments and almost every consumer product.

He said the CIS had many advantages for Thai investors because of its abundant natural resources, technology and vast consumer markets.

He also said any political instability would not hinder businessmen in trading with the commonwealth.

China and South Korea are the most active Asian countries trading with the commonwealth, according to Mr Kasit.

U.S. Asked To Help Curb Anti-Laos Activities

*BK1808031192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 p A3*

[Text] In an effort to further control the anti-Vientiane movement in Thailand, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin plans to ask the United States for its cooperation in curbing the resistance activities in Laos.

"Washington should do more to oversee the activities of these people," Asa told The Nation yesterday, referring to the estimated 200,000 Hmong tribesmen, who are now naturalized US citizens living in various states in the US. The minister said it is possible that about 50,000 of them are followers of Gen Vang Pao, the rightist Laotian leader.

He served the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1960's fighting the communists in Laos who eventually took over in December 1975.

"They entered Thailand with US passports, which do not require a visa," Asa said.

Asa said he plans to summon the US ambassador to Bangkok, David Lambertson, to the Foreign Ministry to discuss ways wherein Thailand and the United States could cooperate in monitoring the activities of suspected Hmong visitors, whose primary objective is to discredit the Laotian government.

"Thailand values its relations with Laos and we want to make sure that the anti-resistance movement is a thing of the past," he said.

Asa's toughened position against the anti-Laotian movement comes before the scheduled visit of Laotian Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut, who will attend the meeting of the Thai-Lao Joint Commission this weekend.

It will be the first time that the kingdom has urged the US to cooperate in ensuring that the Hmongs who have settled in the US do not come to Thailand to harm Thai-Lao relations.

Last month, the Thai government apprehended seven Laotian Hmongs, who are suspected being members of the anti-resistance group.

Asa said Thailand plans to expel them soon to the US.

Meanwhile, an informed military source said Thai authorities are closely watching another group of 18 Hmongs who are currently in a northeastern province near the Laotian border.

Thailand has toughened the screening of visa applications from ethnic Laotians living in third countries, especially those in the US and Europe.

In the past, the government tolerated the activities of the resistance movement which used Thailand as their launching base for attacks against Laotian soldiers.

However, the Thai military has now stopped providing aid to the resistance forces.

It was under the first Anan government that Thailand tried to improve ties with Laos by addressing key security issues.

Laos claimed that at least 8,000 resistance forces are active in Thailand.

Last year, Vientiane was the biggest recipient of foreign assistance from Thailand which was worth more than Bt [Thai baht] 100 million.

Asa also reiterated Thailand's firm intention to further strengthen confidence building measures with Laos in his keynote speech yesterday at a seminar on Indochina organized by the Young Presidents' Organization.

Deputy PM Plays Down Malaysian Sanctuary Offer

*BK1808032192 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 p A3*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin yesterday played down press reports that Malaysia's Kelantan state was offering sanctuary to Thai Muslim separatists.

Asked about this at a press conference at the Government House, Phao replied: "I don't know whether this matter will affect our relationship with Malaysia. Normally, both countries have always been able to settle their differences, especially when it comes to matters concerning the Thai-Malay border."

His comments came after reports stated that Kelantan had offered to shelter Thai Muslim separatists who have accused Thai authorities of harassment.

Police have expressed belief that the Phatthani United Liberation Organization (PULO), a Thai secessionist group, may have been responsible for last week's bombing at the railway station in Hat Yai.

The blast resulted in the deaths of three people and injured more than 70 others.

Phao said a committee was formed last Saturday to report on the progress of the investigation and that it will report to him every three days.

The first meeting of the committee was held yesterday.

Phao blamed bandits for the Hat Yai bombing.

When asked if the separatist movement will now resort to more violence Phao said: "The movement has been dormant for some time, but it is possible that there might be a resurgence of their activities."

Asked to comment on the statement of a former member of the House of Representatives that international politics was involved, Phao said he had no idea whether the incident did involve foreign parties, adding:

"Whether another country was involved in the incident is another thing, but killing or maiming innocent people is despicable. And, as far as I know, Thailand has no conflict with its neighbours."

Phao declined to comment on whether the Hat Yai explosion and a failed bombing attempt in Bangkok, wherein an explosive was placed at the bottom of a gas burner in a Sutthisan noodle stall, were both politically motivated.

Country To Receive Loans From ASEAN-Japan Fund
BK1808031692 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 p B1

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry yesterday signed an agreement on the Asean-Japan Development Fund with Japan yesterday.

Thailand will get US\$358 million of the US\$2-billion fund. The agreement spells out guidelines on use of the fund which will be granted through Industrial Finance Corp of Thailand and Krung Thai Bank.

The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund [OECF] will provide US\$275 million while Japan's Exim Bank will provide US\$83 million.

The OECF loan has repayment term of 30 years, including a 10 year grace period, and carries interest of 2.5 per cent per annum. Private sector projects eligible for the loan must have fixed assets of no more than Bt [baht] 160 million and the sub-loan must not exceed Bt100 million per project.

Exim Bank's loan has a repayment term of 20 years, including a seven year grace period.

The interest rate will be based on the Trust Fund Bureau's rates at the date of contract signing. The current rate is 5.5 per cent per annum.

The same relies on maximum fixed assets and sub-loans apply.

Both OECF and Exim Bank loans allow borrowers to purchase goods and services freely. [passage omitted]

Heavy Vote-Buying Expected in Some Provinces

BK1708014392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] Ratchaburi—There will be more vote-buying here than in the last election because some candidates simply cannot afford to lose.

Despite the anti-vote-buying campaign of the Government and pro-democracy groups and the growing public awareness, some candidates are likely to "shoot" hard cash to remote areas where vote-buying has been rampant in previous elections, observers say.

In the argot of provincial politics, "to shoot" means to buy votes with hard cash.

A Muang municipal councillor said the election will be the only or last chance for certain candidates. If they lose this time they will only repeat their defeat in future elections.

"This election will see heavy vote-buying in the province's outer regions where votes can be more easily calculated beforehand and bought," he said.

As in Bangkok, people in urban areas do not seriously depend on MPs. But those in remote rural areas have a "hand-to-mouth" relationship with many politicians, he said.

He said a group of vote-buying canvassers in the last election includes several provincial and municipal councillors who will certainly do it again in the coming election.

Tens of thousands of villagers in the countryside far from urban areas will be prime targets of the vote-buying candidates, each of whom will need no less than 20 million baht in hard cash to shoot.

But shooting is not always a sure thing.

"Some vote-buyers aim high but shoot low and fail to win," a former election canvasser said, meaning that they expect too many votes and spend too little.

Vote-buying in Constituency 1 will be a tougher job for some leading canvassers who are working seriously on how to "shoot and hit home."

"The March 22 election taught them an expensive lesson," he said.

In the last election, a candidate for Constituency 2 spent almost 30 million baht to buy votes in a just a few districts, but still could not get to Parliament, while another unsuccessful candidate probably underestimated his rivals and spent relatively little to buy votes.

A well-known candidate remarked that those who have bought votes before will buy again or they will have a very slim chance of winning.

The candidate running in Constituency 2 said these vote-buying politicians make it a tradition that they will not campaign without money to give away.

"Once you buy votes you have to keep buying or you may be defeated. They set a precedent and are only repeating it," he said.

He said Ratchaburi was one of the provinces where vote-buying was introduced.

Another candidate running in Constituency 1 said some of the unsuccessful candidates in the last election had not spent too much money, thinking their canvassers would be afraid of the PollWatch Commission.

But PollWatch is a "painting of the tiger that scared away the cows."

"It did not work and never will. Yet PollWatch was better than nothing at all," he said.

Without money to shoot, the canvassers failed to secure decisive votes.

An assistant puyaiban (village chief) in Chom Bung district said he controlled the votes of more than 200 villagers in the March 22 election.

As a canvasser, he said, he passed on 50 baht in cash from a team of candidates to each of his villagers in exchange for their votes.

The assistant puyaiban said another candidate offered just 20 baht to each of his villagers. This "stingy" candidate lost.

"This time they'd have to give much more, probably as much as 300 baht to each villager here. They won't spare anything like before," he said.

Another former canvasser in Ban Pong district said he and many others decided to sway their votes from one candidate to another because not as much money came around as was promised.

The ex-canvasser said one of the unsuccessful candidates even tried to take his money back from the canvassers because they failed to help him.

He said the voter turnout in the coming election in several areas of Constituency 1 will be lower than in the last election if those who used to buy votes do not do so again this time.

Some of the candidates in the last election managed to have farm traders work as their canvassers and give farmers money just a few days before the voting. The farm traders would not call it vote-buying money but a "sugar cane bonus"—the farmers supplied them with sugar cane.

The most fearful of all canvassers are the gamblers. In Muang district, gamblers are more interested in betting on "also rans" than on those who will be elected.

A particular couple of candidates have become hot pawns for big-money gamblers, who use a coffee shop and a khao tom shop for their hangouts, observers say.

The odds are 7:4 with the favorite candidate defeated in the last election and the underdog running for the first time.

"Maybe they know for sure who will be elected and that's no fun. So they choose to bet on those they expect to be also rans," an observer said.

To win, the gamblers who back the underdog will buy votes for him heavily, even without his being aware of it. Chances are the underdog might win over the favourite. "As much as one-third of the money the gamblers expect to gain might be spent buying votes for the underdog," he said.

Nevertheless, observers say, many canvassers in Constituency 1 this time will have their villagers vote on a "split ticket" basis by electing only one or two from a team of three candidates, or probably just one from each team.

Favourite candidates running in the three-MPs Constituency 1 this time include veteran Chart Thai MPs Chira Mangkhanarangsi and Sora-at Klinprathum, ex-provincial council chairman Somsak Rattanamong, Phalang Tham ex-MPs Khachonsak Chintanon and Kusuma Sonswan, ex-deputy police superintendent Pol Lt-Col Sompong Ninsin, and veteran New Aspiration Party MP Tawi Kraikupt.

In the March 22 election Dr Khachonsak came first followed by Mr Sora-at and Ms Kusuma respectively.

Chances for Another Anan Administration Discussed
BK1808033592 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Uncertainties in Politics"]

[Text] Leaders of the Mirror Assembly movement claimed they had no intention to sabotage the fourth constitutional amendment when they petitioned His Majesty the King to consider delaying signing it until a new government is formed after the Sept 13 poll. They claimed also that their only objective was to prevent a possible dispute over the interpretation of Premier Anan Panyarachun's qualifications to continue in office if the fourth amendment, which bars non-MPs from the premiership is signed by the King before the election.

The complication is acknowledged, but it can be easily dealt with should it arise. The King can either re-appoint Anan as caretaker premier, or name one of Anan's deputies for the job. Thus there was no real need to remind the King not to sign the fourth amendment, unless the movement leaders thought the signing was imminent—which wasn't really the case.

By urging the King to delay the signing until after a new government has been formed, the movement indirectly advocated keeping open the doors to the premiership for non-MPs in case no one from the major political parties is suited to succeed Premier Anan. But the movement denied it had such a motive.

The movement also dissociated itself from another group which is in favour of scuttling the fourth amendment so that any highly qualified person—not necessarily MPs—can be appointed premier. Many in this group hope to see Premier Anan stay on and form a third administration in a partnership involving a majority coalition of “good” parties.

These fervent supporters of Premier Anan may reason that if he could work with the military leaders on the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) during the Anan I administration, he should be able to get along well with politicians in an Anan III government too. They also say Premier Anan needn't worry about being unelected because he wasn't in the NPKC's appointed National Assembly either. Yet he was able to get a record number of bills passed by the legislature during his 14 months in office. With a strong majority coalition, his supporters contend, Premier Anan should be able to achieve the same, and much more in a full four-year term.

For argument's sake, let's assume for the moment that Premier Anan doesn't mind facing a “third accident” in his life (the first two of which landed him the premiership in March 1991 and June 1992). What would he need to form a viable Anan III administration?

First, a majority coalition preferably consisting mostly, if not solely, of parties that were not tainted with corruption and a pro-military past. But if there were to be such a coalition, it is more likely the leader of the largest party would be “acceptable” enough to the public to hold the premiership. Thus no outsider would be needed to lead the coalition.

In order to be able to concentrate on running the country, without worrying about losing the confidence of the elected House, Premier Anan would prefer his coalition to have a larger majority, with say at least 200 seats in the 360-member House. As things stand now, neither the former opposition parties nor the parties in the Suchinda government will be able to win up to 200 seats.

If the latter camp, along with Chat Phatthana led by former premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, can form a majority coalition of 200 seats, then again the premiership will most likely go to Chatchai, instead of an outsider.

A more likely scenario is the emergence of a majority coalition of parties from the two camps with no agreement on who should be premier, and thus a compromise choice is needed. In that case would Premier Anan volunteer to hold the premiership for the third time? It is possible that the upcoming poll will lead to a deadlock, with neither camp having enough House seats to form a stable government coalition.

Banning all non-MPs from the premiership could make the deadlock impossible to resolve without the defection of some major party to the opposite camp.

However, what if Premier Anan is not interested? What if Gen Suchinda Khraprayun or his friends, who have just fallen from grace and want to make a comeback, show an interest in stepping in to help form another majority coalition of parties led by “unusually wealthy” politicians? Impossible?

Nothing is impossible in Thai politics. Premier Anan's second return was supposed to be “impossible” too, but it happened.

Therefore don't rule out the possibility of an Anan III administration just yet. After all, several people with connections in high places seem to be actively probing this possibility right now.

Commanders Involved in May Actions Face Demotion
BK1808010092 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] The commanders of three key combat divisions which led the fatal suppression of the anti-Suchinda protests in May will be moved to inactive posts in the upcoming annual military reshuffle, well-informed sources said yesterday.

They also said Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Yutthana Khamdi, Army Secretary Maj Gen Chaturit Promsakha na Sakhon Nakhon, and his assistant Col Banchon Chawalsin, who had defended the military's role in the crackdown, would also be transferred to inactive posts.

The bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators during May 17-20 was carried out by soldiers from the 1st, 3rd and 9th Divisions under the First Army Region.

The three major generals to be demoted are Thitiphong Chennuwat, commander of the Bangkok-based First Division, Panom Jinawijarana, commander of the Prachin Buri-based 2nd Division, and Suvina Boribunnangkun, commander of the Kanchanaburi-based 9th Division.

But sources said it was still unclear what positions the three commanders would be given after their transfer.

They said Yutthana, Jaturit and Banchon would be given the most inactive posts of commanders attached to the Army Headquarters.

Shortly after the May bloodshed Yutthana, Chaturit and Banchon said at press conferences or in interviews that the use of lethal force against the protesters was justified.

They also said the casualties were caused mainly by heavily armed soldiers acting in self-defence after they were threatened by unarmed protesters, whom the three army officers called “trouble-makers”.

At the beginning of this month, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun purged the three top brass who were widely held responsible for having ordered the bloody crackdown in which at least 52 were killed and hundreds injured.

In the lightning transfers, which won praise from pro-democracy groups and the public, Anan ordered the immediate removal of ACM Kaset Rotchananin as supreme commander, Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi as army commander in chief and Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi as First Army region commander.

Kaset was made inspector general, Itsaraphong deputy permanent secretary for Defence and Chainarong commander of the Institute of Army Academics.

Kaset and Itsaraphong yesterday started working in their new positions at the Defence Ministry.

The sources yesterday said new posts of advisers to the Army Institute would also be created but they did not know how many.

They said it was not sure either whether one or all of the three division chiefs, who were graduates of Chulachonkiao Royal Military Academy's Class 11 with Chainarong, might be given the advisory posts.

They said two other major generals, who played less active roles than the three division chiefs in suppressing the demonstrations, would also be transferred.

However, it was not certain yet whether 11th Army Circle chief Maj Gen Chamnan Pasanan and Anti-Aircraft Division commander Maj Gen Thakoen Mungthanya would be demoted or promoted in the annual reshuffle.

The sources said all commanders of Bangkok-based regiments and battalions, who took part in suppression, would also be moved in the upcoming reshuffle.

Minister Emphasizes Research, Development

*BK1808034092 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Aug 92 p B2*

[Text] The government and private sector are finding ways to enhance cooperation in research and development [R&D] within the framework of recent legislation.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister Phaichit Uathawikun, said yesterday that both sectors must work together to create a proper R&D base for sustained development of Thai industries, given increased competition in the international marketplace.

Thai industries will be exposed to foreign hostility if they do not reduce dependence on imported know-how and place greater emphasis on indigenous R&D projects. Phaichit said in developed countries the private sector will lead the pursuit for new technologies with backing from their government on R&D projects.

However, he said in Thailand the private sector has passed a lot of responsibility in this area onto the government. Private firms normally claim that research is costly and consumes too much of their time. They prefer to buy in foreign expertise with its low risks compared to investing in indigenous R&D.

The minister said Thai firms lack serious interest in developing a solid R&D foundation in the country. Dr Yongyut Yuthawong of the Science and Technology Development Office said the legislation enacted during the Anan I government will help enhance closer cooperation between the government and private sector in R&D.

Yongyut said there should be more engineering research and that the scope of research work should be expanded. The government would help locate sources of low-interest funds. The amount of grant aid will be no less than Bt [baht] 2 billion. Interest on loans will be five to six per cent for repayment in seven years. Loans for improving production processes will cost six per cent with seven year repayment terms. The government may seek offshore loans to help local R&D.

The government plans to finance overseas training for 1,400 people in R&D areas. He said bio-technology for agriculture and environmental protection, metallurgy and electronics will be emphasized. The government may eventually consider reducing taxes on high-technology machinery.

Vietnam

Khieu Samphan's Threats of Violence Condemned

*BK1708151692 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT
17 Aug 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 17—According to foreign newspapers, in a recent interview with a Western paper, the head of the Democratic Cambodia Khieu Samphan threatened that he will take more acts of violence against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, not excluding the sight of "Vietnamese corpses floating down the Mekong River" as in the years of Democratic Cambodia's rule.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorised to declare that the speech made by the head of the Democratic Cambodia faction is an extremely blatant violation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia, fanning up national enmity, sabotaging the close neighbourliness between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, and violating international law, particularly the declaration on human rights. Khieu Samphan's statement reminded people of his faction's massacres of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia in the 1975-78 period which were already condemned by public opinion the world over.

Vietnam demands that the Democratic Cambodia faction and its supporters stop using the question of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia to cover up their acts of sabotaging the Paris agreement, and requests the present mechanisms of power in Cambodia, the Supreme National Council and the UN Transitional Authority to take drastic measures to protect the Vietnamese residents and respect the Paris agreement and international treaties.

Akashi Sends Letter of Thanks to Vo Van Kiet

*BK1808074592 Hanoi VNA in English 0617 GMT
18 Aug 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 18.—Mr. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the United Nations general secretary, has sent a letter of thanks to Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet following his recent visit to Vietnam. The letter said: "I appreciated very much the opportunity to discuss the current situation in Cambodia with you and your ministers and am grateful for your advice and your determination to assist UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in the implementation of the Paris accords. "I do not underestimate the difficulties and complexity of my work in Cambodia however, I am confident that with the full support of the international community and the dedication to the implementation of the Paris accords, particularly from the states in the region, we will succeed in achieving a lasting and well-deserved peace in Cambodia.

"On behalf of my delegation, excellency, let me express my sincere appreciation for the gracious reception accorded to us and for the honour of meeting with you and receiving the benefit of your extensive experience and wisdom".

Laos' Phoun Sipaseut, Nguyen Manh Cam Meet

*BK1608151892 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
16 Aug 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 16—Laos's Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut met in Vientiane on August 15 with Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, member of a high-level Vietnamese state and party delegation on an official visit to Laos.

The two ministers informed each other of the external relation activities of the two countries, the latest developments in the region and the world as a whole, and other issues of common concern. They stressed the necessity to tightly coordinate the activities of external relations between Laos and Vietnam, and consolidate and enhance the special friendship between the two countries, fight against all schemes of division by the enemy, and actively participate in activities for peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world.

They were of high unanimity of views on questions dealt at this meeting.

UN-Supported Antinarcotic Program Initiated

*BK1508151092 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT
15 Aug 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—The first United Nations-supported anti-narcotic assistance programme in Vietnam was initiated at a ceremony in Hanoi.

Mr. Hoang Duc Nghi, cabinet minister, and head of the Office of Mountainous Areas and Ethnic Minorities Affairs, Vietnam, and Mr. William F. Beachner,

director, UNDCP [UN Drug Control Program] Regional Centre, Bangkok, participated in the ceremony to mark the signing of the project document which provides for the development of a drug control masterplan. Under this project, UNDCP will provide assistance to the Vietnamese Government for analyzing the country's illicit drug problems and in developing strategies and concrete plans for addressing them.

The project document provides for activities to be undertaken by the government, with the assistance of UNDCP, during 1992-93 for the preparation of a comprehensive, integrated masterplan for the control of all facets of the illicit drug control problem including production, trafficking and abuse. Vietnam, like a number of other countries in Southeast Asia, suffers from opium cultivation in some of its mountainous areas, an increase in international trafficking of both opium and heroin across its territory, and addiction problems. The development of the masterplan will help the government identify priority drug control actions to be undertaken and projects where international assistance can be most effective.

The project will be carried out by the Vietnamese Government through an inter-ministerial task force specifically established for this exercise, which comprises representatives from 10 different ministries, with the Office of Mountainous Areas and Ethnic Minorities Affairs as the coordinating agency. UNDCP will provide financial and technical assistance amounting to about U.S.\$400,000 to train and assist the government counterparts in the formulation of this first comprehensive masterplan for drug control.

During his remarks at the ceremony, Mr. Beachner noted the significance of this first collaborative efforts initiated between UNDCP and the Vietnamese Government in tackling the drug problem. He lauded the commitment demonstrated by the government, noting that the government had begun working towards accession of the three United Nations drug control conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 and towards establishment of a ministerial level national drug control body to facilitate effective drug control action at the national and international levels. Referring to the clear need to respond rigorously to the emerging drug problems in Vietnam, he said that the masterplan would be an important tool for the government in setting effective drug control objectives, priorities and action plans. He expressed the hope that the projects emanating from the masterplan would lead to improved controls on narcotic drugs and contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of the Vietnamese people and their environment. He also emphasized that, as the Vietnamese Government strengthened its own national controls, it could play an increasing role in the regional efforts to deal with illicit drug production and trafficking.

Confederation Workers Delegation Visits Russia

*BK1808075392 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT
18 Aug 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 18—A delegation of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers (CVW) led by Mrs Cu Thi

Mau, vice president of the Executive Board of the confederation, paid a visit to the Russian Federation from August 8-12, 1992 at the invitation of the Russian Independent Trade Unions Federation (RITUF).

While in Russia, the Vietnamese delegation had talks with a RITUF delegation led by its President I.E. Kloskov on the issues of common concern.

President I.E. Kloskov affirmed that although great changes had taken place in the situation in the two countries as well as in the world, the time-honoured friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Russia would continue to be maintained and developed...

The CVW delegation had working sessions with the Russian Social Tourist Association, the Institute of Labour and Social Relations, the Automobile and Agricultural Machine Trade Union, and visited Moscow and Zagorsk.

Vietnam Airlines To Fly to Guangzhou End of Aug
BK1808073492 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 18.—Vietnam Airlines later this month will fly regular flights from Ho Chi Minh City to Guangzhou, China, and back, according to sources from the airlines.

For a start, there will be a monthly flight to Guangzhou on August 25, September 29 and October 27, starting from Nov. 3, there will be two weekly flights from Ho Chi Minh City on Tuesday and Friday.

This will be the 10 [as received] international route flown by Vietnam Airlines from Tan Son Nhat Airport.

Since May, China Southern Airlines has been flying two weekly flights from Guangzhou to Ho Chi Minh City, on Thursday and Saturday.

Do Muoi Comments on Rule of Law Cited
BK1208150692 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 12—"Building a state ruled by law is one of the main tasks of the renovation of the political system," said Party General Secretary Do Muoi when he called at the National Juridical Conference in Hanoi on August 10. He said that this is aimed at making the political system conform with and promote the development of the socialist-oriented multi-sector commodity economy along the right track within law and discipline. In broader terms, that is the main content and spirit of the 1992 constitution of Vietnam, he stressed.

The party leader continued: "We must use coercion against and deal strictly with all law-breaking acts in order to reestablish social order and put order of state management into all units and agencies, all economic sectors and all members of society so as to create a healthy living environment for the people and encourage everybody to work, create and develop production and business."

"At the same time," he continued, "legislation must exert a positive action on the preservation of the fine customs and ethical values of the nation in the interest of each family, each community and society as a whole."

"Renovating the political system including renovation of the state apparatus in the direction of building a law governed state of Vietnam is a complicated question which needs swift, active but careful measures and firm steps so that ultimately we can ensure that the more we step up renovation, the more stable and developed our country becomes," the party general secretary concluded.

Do Muoi Attends Ho Chi Minh City Conference
BK1308134192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Aug 92

[Text] A conference was held by the standing body of the Ho Chi Minh city party committee on 7 and 8 August to study the Seventh Party Central Committee's third plenum resolution on renovating and revamping the party. Attending were party committee secretaries, directors, and trade union chairmen of 50 key state-run business establishments in the city, who had been selected for this task to accumulate experience.

Also present were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrades Nguyen Van Linh and Pham Van Dong, advisers to the party Central Committee; Comrades Dao Duy Tung and Le Phuoc Tho, members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; and some comrades in charge of certain departments of the party Central Committee.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi, secretary of the city party committee, presented the basic contents of the party Central Committee's resolution on renovating and revamping the party, especially on such issues as developing the party politically and ideologically, revamping its organizational and cadre-related work, selecting party members, and renovating mass mobilization work and the mode of party leadership.

The conference spent a lot of time discussing and intensively studying the party Central Committee's third plenum resolution and making suggestions for the implementation of the city party committee's resolution.

Speaking at the conference, the comrades in charge of party work at various establishments demonstrated a high sense of responsibility toward party building work. They held that the party Central Committee's resolution on renovating and revamping the party meets the requirements of the new situation and the demands of party members and the masses at the grass-roots level.

Doan Khue Meets Ethnic Minority Army Cadets
BK1308133192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Aug 92

[Text] On 8 August in Hanoi, General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau and minister of national

defense; and Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Political Bureau and head of the party Central Committee Nationalities Department, had a cordial get-together with representatives of officers training school cadets of different ethnic minority groups. Also attending the get-together were Comrade Tran Xuan Nhi, deputy minister of education and vocational training; and representatives of the General Staff, the Political General Department, and national defense agencies.

Speaking on this occasion, General Doan Khue commended ethnic minority officers training school cadets for their good school performance and stressed that at present, the party and state are making every effort to create equal educational opportunities for ethnic minority students. He reminded officers training school cadets of the need to make an extra effort to acquire knowledge in all fields, have firm confidence in the socialist path chosen by Uncle Ho and our party and people, closely link theory with practice, build and develop their leadership and management skills, promote mutual love and solidarity among cadets of different ethnic groups, and stand ready to fulfill all post-graduation work assignments.

Results of National Assembly Elections Assessed

*BK1708144492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Aug 92*

[Communique of the Electoral Council on the results of the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly]

[Text] The Electoral Council held a plenary session on 12 and 13 August to hear and give its views on a draft report on the results of the nationwide election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly. The council noted that the election was carried out in a democratic atmosphere as stipulated by law, as well as in accordance with the spirit of the renovation work. Prompted by their political awareness and sense of duty as citizens, our people have positively participated in the election. The overall voter turnout nationwide is high, 99.12 percent compared with 98.75 percent in the election of deputies to the Eighth National Assembly.

After reviewing reports submitted by the electoral committees in 53 provinces and cities, the 158 electoral units in charge of the elections on 19 July, and the two electoral units in Thanh Hoa and Hoa Binh in the by-elections to elect one more deputy each on 9 August, the council has made public an official list of the deputies elected. The results of the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly are as follows:

- Total number of electoral units: 158
- Total number of deputies elected: 395
- Total number of candidates: 601
- Total number of registered voters: 37,524,000
- Total number of actual voters: 37,195,000
- Voter turnout: 99.12 percent
- Total number of valid votes: 36,837,000

—Percentage of valid votes: 99.03 percent

—Total number of deputies elected: 395

Women account for more than 18 percent of the total number of deputies elected, ethnic minority deputies for more than 16 percent, members of the Fatherland Front and mass societies for nearly 15 percent, members of religious organizations for nearly 1.8 percent, and deputies to the Eighth National Assembly for more than 26 percent. In addition, more than 4.8 percent of deputies elected work in the industrial sector, more than 14.6 percent work in the agricultural sector, more than 9.6 percent are members of the Armed Forces, nearly 11 percent are political cadres, more than 5 percent engage in cultural or artistic activities, more than 6 percent belong to the educational sector, more than 4 percent work in the public healthcare service, more than 31 percent belong to the state management sector, and more than 56 percent hold college or post-graduate degrees.

The council unanimously agreed on a general assessment of the results of the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly as follows:

1. The election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly has successfully ended. Life has been difficult. Even though it has undergone changes for the better, the socioeconomic situation has continued to develop complicatedly. Nonetheless, by fully understanding their right of mastership and duties as citizens, by heightening their political awareness and love for the country and socialism, and by putting their confidence in the party's leadership and its renovation line, our people have positively and enthusiastically participated in the election and have elected the right deputies to the highest organ of state power.

2. After having been amended, the 1992 Constitution, the Law on Organization of the National Assembly, and the Law on the Election of Deputies to the National Assembly have been promulgated and have begun to be scrupulously implemented in the election of deputies to the National Assembly this time. Party and state resolutions on the organization of the National Assembly elections in accordance with the spirit of the renovation undertaking have helped to develop the people's right of mastership through their participation in the handling of important state affairs and through the election of the people's highest organ of representation.

3. The newly elected Ninth National Assembly comprises 395 deputies representing people of different social classes. The assembly represents the all-people solidarity bloc under the party leadership.

4. The success of the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly this time testifies to the sense of responsibility and positive contributions of the Fatherland Front at all levels, as well as of mass societies and other organizations in charge of the election. The Fatherland Front has satisfactorily fulfilled its task of holding consultative conferences to select candidates and form their namelists in a democratic atmosphere as stipulated

by law. Cadres and personnel in charge from the central down to grassroots levels have made great efforts, have displayed a high sense of urgency, and have satisfactorily complied with the law on election of deputies to the National Assembly and other election-related guidelines.

The Electoral Council has carried out its task as planned and on schedule, has attached importance to guiding and overseeing the electoral work, has attentively listened to and appreciated the views contributed by cadres and the people, and has settled problems and complaints in a timely manner.

After having reviewed a complaint filed by Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, the Electoral Council concluded that the preparations for the election, ballot casting, and vote counting in the fourth electoral unit in the Fifth and 10th Precincts, Ho Chi Minh City, had been properly carried out as stipulated by law. No evidence of fraud was found.

The council warmly commended our people, cadres, and combatants countrywide for their sense of responsibility and spirit of collective mastery. The council praised all sectors, echelons, state agencies, and social organizations for their positive efforts. The total work dedication of cadres and personnel in charge have contributed to the great success of the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly.

Council of Ministers Holds 'Regular' July Session

*BK1208132592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 6 Aug 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] All papers published in Hanoi today frontpage reports on the Council of Ministers holding its regular July 1992 session under the direction of Phan Van Khai, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers standing body, to discuss the draft amendments to the 1988 law on land and the law on national boundaries.

The council contributed many suggestions and discussed and thoroughly analyzed principled issues covering both theory and practice. The council maintained that the new situation has urgently called for amendments to the 1988 law on land to promote economic development and preserve land resources. The council expressed the same views about the draft amendments to the law on national boundaries.

The council contributed many suggestions to a wide variety of issues, especially those relating to national sovereignty and international law, and stressed the need to promulgate the law on national boundaries. The vice chairman of the Council of Ministers standing body summed up the views expressed and entrusted the subcommittees concerned with the urgent task of amending necessary legal documents for submission to the forthcoming session of the National Assembly.

Nonstate Enterprise Chairmen Hold Conference

*BK1308082592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network
in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Aug 92*

[Text] The first conference of chairmen of provisional councils of nonstate enterprises of provinces and municipalities was held in Hanoi on 7 August. Comrade Hoang Minh Thang, chairman of the Central Provisional Council of Nonstate Enterprises, delivered a report on activities of the council during the first half of 1992 and tasks for the second half.

Attending the conference were representatives of the Council of Ministers Office, various ministries, the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department; the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare, and 13 key provinces and municipalities where provisional councils of nonstate enterprises have been established.

Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Economic Department attended and addressed the conference. He urged businessmen of nonstate enterprises to make more contributions to the nation's multicomponent economy in accordance with the open door policy of the party and state.

Many delegates to the conference expressed viewpoints aimed at positively implementing the Council of Ministers Chairman's decision No. 409-CT and directive No. 28-CT and at urgently making preparations for the national conference of nonstate enterprises to be held at the end of this year. These delegates also contributed ideas to supplement and amend laws and regulations related to this issue so as to create favorable conditions for nonstate enterprises to effectively carry out their activities.

Provisional Nonstate Business Councils Set Up

*BK1308132392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Aug 92*

[Text] To date, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi Municipality, Hai Phong and the provinces of Quang Nam-Da Nang, Lam Dong, Lang Son, Hai Hung, Bac Thai, Dong Nai, Tien Giang, Thanh Hoa, and Gia Lai have set up provisional nonstate business councils. Along with the formation of local provisional business councils, the central provisional nonstate business council has admitted 17 members belonging to major business establishments in the various cities, where provisional business councils are still nonexistent.

To make preparations for the national delegates' congress scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of this year, positive steps have been taken to amend and perfect documents concerning the organization and operating procedures of the central provisional nonstate business council.

Provisional councils operate under similar rules governing the operations of associations. This means that

they act on behalf of business establishments instead of being the latter's next higher echelon—as was the case of the Association of Interbranch Handicraft Cooperatives Central Council, which had already been dissolved under Political Bureau Resolution No. 16.

Ninh Binh Holds 12th Party Organization Congress

*BK1508100192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Aug 92*

[Text] From 6 to 8 August, the Ninh Binh provincial party organization held its 12th congress of delegates to assess the situation during 1986-91 and to set forth socioeconomic guidelines, tasks, and targets for 1992-95. Comrade Le Kha Phieu, secretary of the Party Central Committee, attended and addressed the congress.

The congress concentrated on reviewing all the activities in Ha Nam Ninh Province from 1986 to the time it was divided into Ninh Binh and Nam Ha Provinces in April 1992. It also analyzed and accurately evaluated the province's actual potential, advantages, shortcomings, and weaknesses to clear determine the guidelines, targets, tasks, and necessary measures for 1992 to 1995.

After describing the actual situation of the province, the congress took note of the great potential, such as its tradition of solidarity and steadfast revolution; its abundant source of industrious and skilled labor; its three economic zones—hilly, delta, and coastal—which can help replenish one another; its advantageous communication network; and its ability to develop marketable farm products, construction materials, tourism, and other services.

Based on this, the congress set forth guidelines for 1992-95, which involve:

- Concentrating efforts on developing all potential and advantages—especially labor, intellect, land, and natural resources, capital, and material and technical bases, which are considered capital and material and technical bases—to build an agroindustry-services and tourism-based economic structure in combination with exports and imports.

- Accelerating the development of the multicomponent production of goods and considering the development of comprehensive agricultural production—which includes forestry and fishery—in combination with the processing industry as the most important task.

The congress spent a lot of time discussing measures to make the party organization, administration, and mass organizations firm and strong so that they can satisfactorily carry out all the guidelines and tasks that have been laid down.

With more than 4,000 members at present, it is imperative for the party organization to urgently renovate and revamp its ranks and constantly improve its quality and ability to ensure that it is sufficiently capable of assuming leadership. This is aimed at making Ninh Binh a beautiful and prosperous province and to enable it to firmly maintain political security, social order, and safety.

The congress elected the 12th executive committee of the provincial party committee, comprising 39 members. Comrade To Xuan Toan was elected secretary of the provincial party committee.

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